

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

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\$2

WEEKLY

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They're chasing me away

BY TOM ANDERSON

SOCCEROO star Ned Zelic claims he is being chased out of the country to a foreign club by the inflated transfer placed on him.

Zelic is awaiting a phone call from Europe which will take him scurrying back to Belgium immediately, to join either FC Brugge or Anderlecht.

This could mean missing the Oceania Olympic qualifiers in Fiji next month.

"I'm being forced out of this country by the ridiculous \$50,000 local transfer fee placed on me by Sydney Croatia and the tribunal," he said.

"If officials really want to keep young players in this country they should take a positive step to rectify such a situation as I find myself in at present."



Ned Zelic (left) with Australian coach Eddie Thomson and David Lowe.

CUT BACK

BY TOM ANDERSON

THE ASF will seriously cutback all national team preparations over the next 12 months.

This comes through a lack of cash flow and a tightening of finances within the Federation.

The decision was taken at the weekend at an ASF commissioners' meeting in Sydney, attended by national coach Eddie Thomson and his assistant Les Scheinflug.

At the meeting, the coaching duo tabled their proposed program for the four national teams for the next four years.

They were informed, a great deal of pruning would have to be done.

"Times are hard and with the country in recession, we have to watch every cent," declared ASF chief exec Ian Holmes at the weekend.

"We will do everything in our power to give the coaches proper preparations for their teams, but there will have

to be cutbacks in their proposed program.

"The simple reason is, we just cannot afford it."

National coach Eddie Thomson said he understood the situation.

"I completely understand the financial situation, as money is short everywhere at the moment," he said.

"It looks as if this will mean a cutback in training camps for all our teams."

"This could prove serious as far as the senior Socceroo side and the Young Socceroos are concerned."

"For we will soon have the World Cup qualifiers coming up and there is the World Youth championships here in 1993."

"A makeshift preparation for those two important events could prove fatal."

"It is to be hoped that the financial situation will improve over the next few months, to allow us to proceed with our original plans."

Because of the financial situation,

plans to bring the Swiss national team here for a tournament in January have been shelved.

Sweden will come as scheduled and, most probably be joined by the Korean Olympic side.

The Socceroos will meet Sweden in Sydney on January 26, Adelaide on January 29 and in Melbourne on Feb 2.

Curtain raisers between the Korean and the Australian Olympic sides will be played before the main games.

Another tournament in June is hoped to be organised.

Coaches Thomson and Scheinflug also want to take the senior national side on tour of Central and South America next year and the Young Socceroos to a tournament in Israel in December.

However, these suggestions are now in the lap of the Gods because of the present unstable financial climate.

If it doesn't improve, there will be no other alternative but to shelve the plans.

What ABSW says . . .

AT the start of the year, we were all led to believe that the beginning of a new era in soccer was upon us.

This was to be the start of the code roaring into the 1990's.

We were told the national teams were going to be promoted and marketed as never before, and that the restructured NSL was at long last, about to capture the imagination of the Australian sporting public at large.

Well, this may have been the roar way back in January, but since then, it's died down to a mere whimper.

And, we are still waiting on the big marketing and promotional moves from ASF headquarters with baited breath.

But I suppose, as is usual when dealing

with soccer in this country, one must always be the eternal optimist.

The subject of promotion and marketing of soccer in this country, brings to mind a parable told to me by a leading soccer official way back in the early 1970's.

It went like this:

A young man who had recently inherited a small fortune had heard about the advances in modern transplant surgery, and decided he would benefit from a new brain.

He went to see a specialist and asked him what he could offer.

"Well," said the specialist, "that depends on what you can afford."

At the moment we have several brains

'WHAT PROMOTION?'

in stock: that of a bank clerk for \$5,000, a University professor for \$10,000 or a High Court judge for \$20,000."

"I am a wealthy man," said the young man.

"Tell me, what is your absolute best and most expensive one at the moment?"

"You are in luck," said the specialist, "we happen to have a soccer marketing and promotion man's, on very special offer at \$70,000."

"I don't understand," said the young man, "why is a soccer marketing and promotion man's brain so much more expensive than any of the others?"

"Simple, it's hardly ever used," said the specialist.

THE EDITOR

City rise to the occasion



ADELAIDE CITY 4
WEST ADELAIDE 1

BY ALAN
CLARK

ADELAIDE City snared the West Adelaide Sharks 4-1 at Hindmarsh Stadium on Sunday before a bumper derby crowd of 10,024.



City were too slick, too quick and too professional for their old Adelaide foes.

After a razzamatazz prelude had set an electric atmosphere, City went right for the kill and drew blood in just two minutes.

Olyroo Carl Veart pounced on a perfect through ball from Joe Mullen to drive home.

The opener showed

the Sharks' problem in its tall, sluggish, static backline which City punished with its pace.

The 'visitors' went two up in 31 minutes when former skipper Sergio Melta converted a penalty after a clumsy late tackle on Tony Vidmar by Robbie Slager.

City dominated midfield with Melta, Joe Mullen and Robert Csoboth showing their best form so far this year.

West's Uruguayan striker new boy Mario Perucho was denied space or service to shine. But he looks to have plenty work to do for the heat of this kind of battle.

Another Argentinian Claudio Canosa has no such problem. The West Enforcer opened torridly against Steve

Maxwell and only soothing words from Spanish speaking referee John Santa Isabel saw him keep some semblance of cool.

Canosa ironically was booked in 11 minutes for kicking away the ball. Kurt Reynolds in 47th minutes also earned a caution.

West shocked City with a special goal in 55 minutes through Raymond Blair. He dived to head home a delicate chipped pass from Adrian Santrac.

West then pressured City but Zoran Matić's machine found another gear and were rewarded in 71 minutes with a neatly headed goal from Ernie Tapai as the West defence against was prised wide open.

Slagere conceded his second penalty of the

night against Mullen for Melita to score again in 79 minutes.

WEST ADELAIDE: Blazincic, Mills, Fletcher, Reynolds, Slager 5, Canosa, Vatsilas (Hlern 87), Brazzale, Perucho (Keramidas 68), Santrac, Blair.

ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica, Shillabeer (Brooks 80), Vidmar, Ivanovic, Tobin, Melta, Tapai, Veart (Ilic 39), Mullen, Maxwell, Csoboth.

West Adelaide 1 (Blair 55) Adelaide City 4 (Veart 2, Melta 31, 79 pens), Tapai (71).

SCORERS: 3 — Mullen (Ad City), 2 — Vatsilas (W Adel), 1 — Tapai (Ad City).

CROWD: 10,024.

REFEREE: John Santa Isabel (Melb).



Sergio Melta

Olympic squad

THE Australian Olympic party for the Oceania qualify games in Fiji next month:

Officials: John Constantine Tour Leader, Eddie Thomson National Coach, Les Scheinflug Assistant National Coach.

Players: John Filan, Mark Bosnich, Ned Zelic, Dominic Longo, Steve Georgakis, Shaun Murphy, Milan Blagojevic, Kevin Muscat, Tony Vidmar, John Gibson, Damian Mori, George Slifkas, Eric Hristodoulou, John Markovski, Steve Refenes, Carl Veart, David Seal, Gary Hasler.

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Olympic's new HQ

THE Mayor of Canterbury, Alderman John Gorrie, said that he was pleased to announce the recent Council decision to approve the lease of IOOF Club in Tennant Parade, Hurlstone Park to Sydney Olympic.

The Mayor said that while approval of the Minister for Local Government still had to be given, the club had been permitted to enter the premises to carry out essential maintenance and cleaning up.

The Mayor went on to say that the conditions with which the Club had been given the use of its premises were designed to ensure that their activities would not cause disruption and loss of amenity to surrounding residents.

The Mayor explained that hours of operation of the Club would be strictly controlled and that alterations to the building to be undertaken by the Club would overcome noise problems that had been experienced in the past.

Club officials were keen to meet with local residents to ensure that their concerns on the operation of the Club were given every consideration.

In addition offstreet parking would be provided on the disused bowling green adjacent to the existing council car park.

The Mayor said he was pleased that the building would soon be returned to its former condition and would be put to a worthwhile purpose, rather than falling into disrepair.

Tennis courts and basketball courts would be provided for the use of members and residents.

The Mayor concluded by repeating that the use of the premises would be governed by a range of conditions designed to ensure that the Club operated in a manner that was compatible with the residential nature of the surrounding area.

NSL SCORE BOARD

Results

APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (Roodhouse o.g.) PRESTON 0 at Concord Oval. Crowd: 1,750.

NEWCASTLE BHP 1 (Barkley) SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (Krslovic, Caleta) at Austral Park. Crowd: 5,219.

MARCONI 1 (McCulloch) WOLLONGONG CITY 4 (Bate 2, Lloyd, Bundalo) at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 3,164.

MELB. CROATIA 3 (Awaritefe, Kelic, Mori) BRISBANE UTD 1 (Cahut) at Somers St. Crowd: 3,200.

HEIDELBERG UTD 4 (Lewis 2, Hunter, Stubbins) SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Cranney o.g.) at Olympic Village. Crowd: 2,500.

PARRAMATTA MELITA 0 SOUTH MELBOURNE 2 (Trimboli, Tsolakis) at Melita Stadium. Crowd: 3,725.

WEST ADELAIDE 1 (Blair) ADELAIDE CITY 4 (Melta 2, Veart, Tapai) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 10,024.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Melb. Croatia	4	4	0	0	10	3	8
Adelaide City	4	3	1	0	8	2	7
South Melbourne	4	3	0	1	14	5	6
Wollongong City	4	2	2	0	6	1	6
Sydney Olympic	4	2	1	1	7	5	5
Brisbane Utd	4	2	1	1	5	5	5
Heidelberg Utd	4	2	0	2	8	7	4
Newcastle BHP	4	2	0	2	6	6	4
Api Leichhardt	4	1	1	2	2	8	3
Preston	4	1	0	3	4	8	2
Sydney Croatia	4	1	0	3	3	7	2
West Adelaide	4	0	2	2	3	8	2
Marconi	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
Parra Melita	4	0	1	3	1	7	1

AWARD PROGRESS POINTS

7 Bredbury (SO)
7 Davidson (MC)
7 Biskic (MC)
6 Blair (SM)
6 Bundalo (WC)
5 Halligan (BU)
5 Katholos (SO)

TOP GOAL SCORERS

5 Tim Bredbury (Syd Olympic)
4 Kiin Taliadoros (South Melb)
4 Paul Trimboli (South Melb)

CROWDS

ROUND 4: 29,582
Average per Game: 4,226



At long last Croatia post a win



New captain . . . striker Tony Krslovic in the hunt for goals



NEWCASTLE 1
SYDNEY CROATIA 2

BY FRANK
ROBERTS

DESPITE the late sending off of Youth International keeper Mark Bosnich, the atmosphere in the Sydney Croatia dressing room after its last minute 2-1 win over the Newcastle Breakers at Austral Park last Friday night was almost like a grand final triumph.

But well might Croatia have been celebra-

ting because a fourth successive loss would almost have ended their National Soccer League season before it began.

Although Bosnich will be missing for next weekend's game against Brisbane United in Sydney. The professional foul on Newcastle's Kiwi striker Noel Barkley in the 88th minute just outside the area when the scores were locked at 1-1 probably prevented a Breakers' win.

With a new coach, Mladen Vrankovic, and no points under its belt after three rounds, Croatia came to Newcastle with everything to lose and much to gain.

Although Croatia's coach has only a halting grasp of English, he was well able to show his relief and just how much the win meant with words and smiles.

"We had to win tonight and we had to score two goals doing it," Vrankovic said.

"Those two points tonight are worth double to us."

Vrankovic was seemingly unconcerned

about Bosnich's send-off after which referee Alex Spiroski allowed Newcastle to take the freekick three times but they were still unable to punish Croatia which had Yugoslav international attacker Fadil Murici in goal for the last six minutes of the match.

The coach said he had full faith in Bosnich's international youth back-up, Zelco Kalac, as being more than capable of filling the former Manchester United custodian's place.

Down 1-0 only nine minutes in when Barkley slotted home from close range after an awful mix-up in the Croatia defence, the visiting side bounced back in a fashion which uncannily reflected Vrankovic's greatest hope during the week, that big striker Tony Krslovic would get his first goal of the season.

Krslovic nodded one of many of Manis Lamond's great crosses past Breakers' keeper Sean Lahiff in the 15th minute.

Lamond, back in the starting line-up as Vrankovic searched desperately for new options, rang rings around youth international Brad Maloney, who was filling in at right back for Ralph Maier after he was knocked out in Newcastle's own last minute 2-1 win over Preston last week.

But while Vrankovic was celebrating in a rousing chorus of singing with his players, Newcastle Breakers' coach Bruce Stowell was still shaking his head at his own players

performance and Croatia's bustling tactics.

After thumping South Melbourne 3-1 at home and then grabbing a great late win over Preston, Newcastle's fans were probably over-expectant about the Croatia game, but so was Stowell.

Stowell described his own players as naive and lacking in concentration at the end and accused Croatia of spoiling tactics.

But apart from playing a little more advantage, Spiroski could have done little more than hand four yellows to Croatia players and the red to Bosnich to one yellow for Newcastle midfielder John Koch.

After righting the ship at halftime and looking more dangerous, although often wasting chances with easy high balls to Bosnich, Newcastle should have snuck away with a point

but for lazy play in midfield and at the back.

Man-of-the-match and goalscorer against Preston, former Queensland representative Nick Meredith gave the ball away one too many times with only a minute remaining.

Although Meredith showed the courage to chase back he then compounded his mistake when he failed to close down the byline and substitute Joe Caleta scored at an acute angle.

"We had them for 45 minutes in the second half but couldn't put one away," Stowell said.

"My players were bloody naive.

"They fell into old habits and played too quickly or passed to no-one and fell asleep at the end."

Stowell saved some criticism for Croatia, accusing them of shirt-pulling and kicking to

slow down the game; but his words sounded too familiar to those who heard South Melbourne coach Ferenc Puskas also searching for answers in refereeing decisions to his side's 3-1 loss to Newcastle.

More importantly for Stowell, he was angry that his side created so much up to the edge of the area in the second half and then did not provide Barkley and Koch with decent service.

At the other end of the park, Newcastle found some positives with a home man-of-the-match performance by former Blacktown City defender Darren Northam, who must have just pipped local Andy Roberts.

Roberts, a highly promising 21-year-old former Australian Institute of Sport student, is growing in stature each match.

Newcastle faces Apia-Leichhardt at Austral Park on Friday night and may have keeper John Russell pressing for Lahiff's place and Maier and Olympic squad defender Dominic Longo back from injury.

The Breakers only injury concern from the Croatia game might be Scottish import Ian Heddle who hobbled for much of the match, while apart from Bosnich Croatia escaped unscathed.

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS: Lahiff, Maloney, Heddle, Roberts, Koczka, Moffitt, Northam, Naumov, Koch, Barkley, Meredith.

CROATIA: Bosnich, Runje, Grbevski, Stanton, Popovic, Stipic, Irlarte (Caleta 74m), Ricoy, Krslovic, Murici, Lamond (Jurin 86m).

SCORERS: Barkley 9m for Newcastle. Krslovic 15m, Caleta 94m for Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Popovic 12m, Runje 31m, Lamond 57m Grbevski 93m for Croatia. Koch 59m for Newcastle.

RED CARD: Bosnich 88m for Croatia.

REFEREE: Alex Spiroski.

CROWD: 5,219.

POINTS: Lamond 3, Krslovic 2, Roberts 1.

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Newcastle's new man ANDY KOCZKA.

Marconi's sad tale of woe continues!



MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 1
WOLLONGONG CITY 4

BY FRANK
SCICLUNA

A doggedly resolute performance from Wollongong City sent a thoroughly dejected Marconi-Fairfield hurtling towards the depths of despair at Bossley Park on Sunday with an emphatic 4-1 spanking, despite having to battle out the second half playing with a man short.

Former Soccerroo captain Charlie Yankos was sensationally given his marching orders two minutes into the second half for a tackle from behind on Tom McCulloch, then the match really exploded eight minutes later when David Seal retaliated to a challenge from Claude Cellini which left referee Rob Davies with no option but to send off both players after they traded punches right in front of the grandstand.

Wollongong was doing it quite easily at the time, holding a deserved two goal lead at



the break with a confident aggressive display of attacking football against a disappointing Marconi clearly missing the power of suspended Ian Gray and the guile of injured Gus Cerro in midfield.

The highly spirited Wolves hit the front after just a quarter of an hour with a move instigated by \$27,000 signing Alex Bundalo.

He released Cellini wide on the left, giving the young winger plenty of time to whip in a tantalising cross which caught the entire defence ball watching and allowed a completely unmarked Frank Bate to plant his header wide of keeper Bob Catlin.

Marconi was once again showing the old familiar problems in defence, displaying an alarming lack of understanding which presented Pat Brodnik with a golden chance to increase the lead after 30 minutes but missed his final shot from a perfect position.

Defender John Paul De Marigny went close to dragging the home side back into the match within two minutes but his vicious right foot volley brought out a

marvellous one handed save out of Olympic games' goalkeeper John Filan.

Wollongong soon went back on the offensive however, going further ahead eight minutes before the break from a well rehearsed set move. Bundalo's corner kick to the near post was flicked on by Yankos into the middle for Bate to climb high and again easily find the net with his power header.

With this two goal effort, Bate clearly repaid the faith coach David Ratcliffe showed in calling him into the team for his first game this season.

Playing with the advantage of an extra man, Marconi began to apply plenty of pressure early in the second half and were rewarded in the 69th minute after Daid Lowe laid off a cross from John Markovski into the path of the charging McCulloch to thump his low right foot shot into the net.

At this stage Marconi looked a big chance to salvage a result and began throwing men forward searching for an equaliser.

This proved to be fatal in the 79th minute when young Wollongong midfielder Matthew Horsley broke away and turned a delightful ball inside for substitute Richard Lloyd to find himself with only Catlin in front of him and calmly slotted his delicate shot into the bottom corner.

The attempted comeback by Marconi had been shortlived and worse was to follow.

Within three minutes the Wolves grabbed their fourth after Andy Harper needlessly punched away a Mike Hollifield cross, giving Bundalo the chance to score his first goal for his new club from the penalty spot.

Bundalo was a huge inspiration to Wollongong. He added plenty of skill and flair to the side which together with his composure on the ball gave the previously dour Wolves an extra touch of class in midfield.

As for Marconi their horror run continues to go from bad to worse with a defence which shows no sign of overcoming a tendency to give away cheap goals and a very obvious lack of determination and confidence running right throughout the team.

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD: Catlin, Van Egmond, De Marigny, Calderan, Blagojevic, Corica, McCulloch, Harper (Mendez 88m), Seal (sent off 55m), Markovski, Lowe.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Filan, Green, Hollifield, Horsley, Yankos (sent off 47m), O'Shea, Bundalo, Skeen, Bate (Morlando 52m), Brodnik (Lloyd 70m), Cellini (sent off 55m).

SCORERS: Bate 15m, 37m, Lloyd 79m, Bundalo pen 82m for Wollongong. McCulloch 69m for Marconi.

YELLOW CARDS: Skeen 16m, Hollifield 47m, Morlando 76m for Wollongong. Harper 82m for Marconi.

RED CARDS: Yankos 47m, Cellini 55m, for Wollongong. Seal 55m for Marconi.

REFEREE: Rob Davies.
CROWD: 3,164.

POINTS: Bundalo 3, Hollifield 2, Bate 1.

APIA come back from the dead!



DARREN STEWART



APIA 1
PRESTON MAKE 0

BY LACHLAN
BARKER

AT Concord Oval
Apia defeated Preston Makedonia 1-0.

Apia's goal was an own goal deflecting from a John Gibson header.

Apia were always going to be in a defensive mood after last week's 6-1 thrashing.

The game was slow in starting but the second half particularly was full of incidents.

The major attacking move for Apia in the half fell to Shane Clinch but his low drive scooted just wide of the upright.

Preston had several good chances and should have been 4-0 up at halftime.

A Kris Trajanovski volley, a flick header from Andrew Zinni and a side volley from centre-forward Paul Waddell all came very close but did not enter the net.



option but to send McFadden off.

Manfred Schaefer, the Apia coach, was obviously relieved to have returned to the winner's circle.

"We didn't really want to try anything after last week's 6-1 thrashing. We essentially made sure we were behind the ball in defence," said Schaefer.

"Our defence played really well particularly young Peter Bennett and John McQuarrie who had individual assignments marking Trajanovski and Spink.

"Neither of those players were in the game at all," Schaefer commented.

APIA-LEICHHARDT: Franken, McQuarrie, Jennings (McFadden 65m), Stewart, Bennett, Clinch, Ellem, Ollerenshaw, Brown (Carter 85m), Minichiello, Gibson.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianedes, Roodhouse, Stojcevski, Jackson, Parton, Petrov McAleer 70m), Bekiaris, Trajanovski, Spink, Waddell (J Markovac 85m), Zinni.

SCORERS: Roodhouse og for Apia.

YELLOW CARDS: McFadden 70m, Minichiello 76m for Apia. Petrov 30m, Bekiaris 70m, Waddell 72m for Preston.

RED CARD: McFadden 70m for Apia.

REFEREE: Gary Power.
CROWD: 1,750.
POINTS: Bennett 3, Gibson 2, Bekiaris 1.

SOUTHERN & EASTERN SFA

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Wednesday November 6, 5.30pm
Sunday November 10, 9.30am
Wednesday November 13, 5.30pm
Sunday November 17, 9.30am

U/14 & U/15

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U/17

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Bergers shock cocky Olympic



HEIDELBERG 4
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

BY
CON STAVROS

IT was a happy Heidelberg combination who pounced on every opportunity to send high-flying Sydney Olympic crashing back to earth on Sunday afternoon.

The Bergers humbled 4-1 in their opening home match of the season were able to reverse that scoreline in an precision opportunistic display, that featured a Paul Lewis double as well as a spectacular Troy Cranney own goal.

Fielding their usual strong outfit, the visitors playing at the aptly named Olympic Village looked the better side in the early exchanges, with the midfield combination of Grant Lee and Peter Katholos in fine form.

Lee, whose crosses had terrorized the Heidelberg defence early on, managed to create such panic in the 20th minute that Troy Cranney's attempted volley clearance succeeded in only finding the back of the net.

Showing enormous character however, Heidelberg levelled the scoreline just sixty seconds later when a clearance deflection fell to the fortunately placed Lewis who clinically shot past a surprised Gary Meier.

Lewis added his second goal in the 40th



minute when he latched onto a ball from Cranney, spun beautifully on the edge of the six yard box and somehow beat the keeper from the tightest of angles.

Player of the Match Lewis also contributed to the third for Heidelberg when his perfect cross just four minutes later found the head of a poorly marked Derek Hunter who finished accurately from point-blank range.

Olympic, who were by no means totally disgraced, were being made to pay for what Mick Hickman later described as sloppiness. Indeed whilst Olympic had captured majority possession through its' midfield dominance a lack of quality final passes was costing them dearly at the business end of the park.

Tim Bredbury looked sharp on occasion, but suffered most from a lack of support and was ultimately forced to lower his colors to a determined Gary Bratten.

No-one doubted the ability of Olympic to stage a comeback in this game and a second half change of formation that saw Andrew Bernal loiter dangerously in attack, plus finally some attacking runs from David Barrett augured well for the visitors.

Alan Scott, filling the sweeper's position for the first time at Heidelberg managed to repel most of the attacks however and the possibility of a counterattack

goal loomed ominously on the horizon.

No real surprises then when a tearaway Phil Stubbins extended the scoreline in the 82nd minute with a well struck low shot from the edge of the area. Meier whilst taking the sting off the ball with his legendary ungloved hands could only watch prostrate as the ball continued its bouncing cavalcade for the sanctity of the net.

Heidelberg's performance was all the more meritorious given the loss of Youth International Kevin Muscat in the 27th minute to a leg injury.

Brian MacNicol once again displayed ample speed and skill down the right flank and his work was mirrored by Olympic's Steve Refenes who is maturing into a quality player of exciting proportions.

All in all a great result for the home club who coach Gary Cole said finally deserved some good fortune, whilst Olympic faithful can probably put this game down to a minor hiccup in what should be a long and predominately happy season for them.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver, Bratten, Scott, Muscat (Michailidis 27m), Hodgson, Cranney, Goutzoulis, Stubbins (Rizopoulos 90m), Hunter, MacNicol, Lewis.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier, Barrett, Ironside, Hooker, Bernal, Phillips, Bredbury, Lee, Nasteovski (Hristodoulou 75m), Katholos, Refenes.

SCORERS: Lewis 21m and 40m, Hunter 44m and Stubbins 82m for Heidelberg. Cranney OG 20m for Sydney Olympic.

YELLOW CARDS: Scott 15m for Heidelberg.

REFEREE: Mike Browning

CROWD: 2500

VOTES: 3 - Lewis (H), 2 - Katholos (SO), 1 - MacNicol (H)

There's no stopping determined Hellas



MELITA 0
MELB HELLAS 2

BY JOHN
ECONOMOS

MELBOURNE HELLAS, current NSL champions, served warning they mean to hang on to their title with a high-powered 2-0 win over Parramatta Melita last Sunday at the Melita Stadium.

Despite Melita again failing to record their first win in the NSL, they were far from disgraced and in fact had enough chances to pull off what would have been a valuable and justified draw.

Hellas' goals from Paul Trimboli and Peter Tsolakis, both scored in the first half, saw the Champions coasting in the second session.

This allowed chances to fall to Melita's right-back, Gerry Gomez and flank-striker, Osvaldo El Ali.

Gomez rocked the Hellas cross-bar with his header in the 61st minute from an El Ali cross whilst El Ali himself screwed a shot wide of the target in the dying minutes.

Giant centre-back, Steve Blair marshalled the Hellas defence extremely well, allowing flank-defenders, David Healy and Angie Postecoglou to push forward, whilst free-back, Mehmet Durakovic, despite suffering from a severe virus, cleaned up everything at the back.

Melita's midfield trio of Michael Reda, Lenny Vial and Aytec Genc, showed great enterprise, especially 18 year old Reda making his debut in the NSL.

Reda's powerful bursts on the ball will make it hard for coach Blanco to drop him now that Hugo Gimenez and Klaus Okon come back from suspension and injury for Melita's away match against Preston on Sunday.

Strikers, Jarek Nowicki and Marshall Soper looked dangerous but Melita's attack-line has lost much of its sting with the departure of Greg Brown to Korea.

Ferenc Puskas calmly evaluated after the match: "We stopped playing well in the

second half and we could have been in trouble."

Raul Blanco, Melita's long-serving coach, obviously frustrated with the result, stated: "We played well in the first half, created good chances and were confident on the ball. All in all I feel we matched Hellas in all departments but unfortunately somebody has to lose."

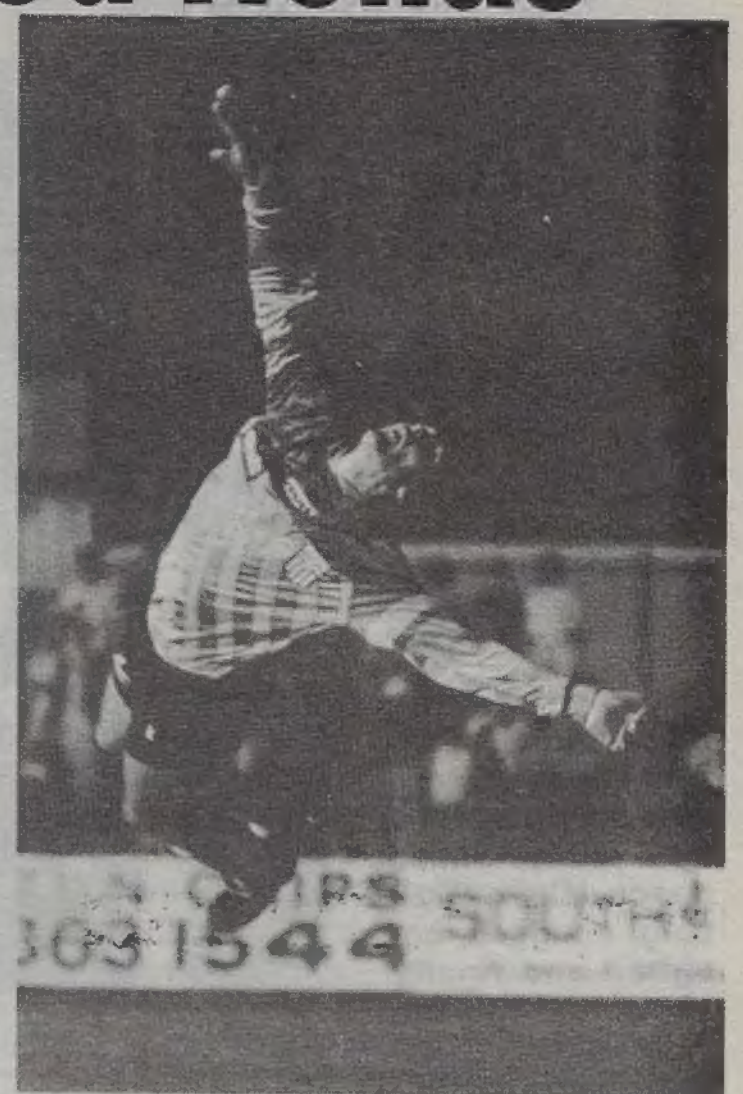
The first session was studded with spectacular fast football as both sides rapidly switched their respective attacks from side to side and end to end.

Despite starting the battle without a single win from their previous three outings, Melita played with great pace, arrogance and unexpected confidence.

Hellas the current NSL champions, like true champions, absorbed the homeside pressure and constantly countered with lethal attacks.

The 'Blues' opened the scoring as early as in the sixth minute when their dynamic, blond striker, Paul Trimboli received a vicious low cross from the right from his partner-in-crime, Kimon Taliadoros, to glance his header high into Melita's net.

Fiery striker Marshall Soper in the 13th minute came perilously close with his free kick from 17 metres, but a



South Melbourne goalie Bruce MacLaren in full flight

fully stretched David McLaren saved well to his left.

A magnificent lightning save by Melita's Alex McPherson in the 18th minute denied Hellas right-back, David Healy from very close range any joy.

Melita's hopes of equalising were shattered in the 31st minute when left midfielder Genc appeared to have scored with a rocketing 35 metre low angled drive. But the flag caught Soper in an apparently off-side position for referee, Peter Spiers to discount the goal.

Five minutes before halftime Hellas nailed their second when a vi-

cious 25 metre free kick from the left and quickly taken by left midfielder, Peter Tsolakis cleared the wall and crashed into the target.

PARRAMATTA MELITA: McPherson, Gomez, Barrios (Ciantar 54m), Callanan, O'Donnell, Vial (Dickenson 66m), Reda, Genc, Nowicki, Soper, El Ali.

MELBOURNE HELLAS: McLaren, Healey, Blair, Durakovic, Postecoglou, Wade, Petersen (Wright 46m), Hasler, Tsolakis, Taliadoros, Trimboli.

SCORERS: Trimboli 6, Tsolakis 40.

YELLOW CARDS: Vial 17th, Wade 60th, O'Donnell 66th.

REFEREE: P Spiers.

CROWD: 3,725

POINTS: Blair, Wade, Nowicki.



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Croatia purr along nicely



MELB CROATIA 3
BRISBANE UTD 1

BY GREG BLAKE

MELBOURNE Croatia, likened to a well-oiled machine by Brisbane United coach Miron Bleiberg; chugged, coughed and finally sputtered into life to retain its 100 per cent record by rolling the previously undefeated Queensland side 3-1 at Somers Street on Sunday.

Challenged by a Brisbane side which persevered rather than threatened, Croatia ran away with the game thanks to two second-half strikes - one a thundering goal of the year candidate by Damian Mori - to make it 3-0.

Both goals came in a seven minute blitz, putting an end to the Brisbane side's fightback, a comeback which had looked promising for a time.

An 8th minute Francis Awaritefe goal had given Croatia a dream start, the otherwise resolute Alan Hunter being outpaced by the lithe black striker as he chased down Andrew Marth's long ball and slipped his shot past Mirko Runje.

Croatia might well have capitalized on its first half dominance against the clearly stage-struck Brisbane side, only to see Awaritefe denied by an upright and Ivan Kelic denied by Runje.

Although out-gunned around the ground, Brisbane carved out



Melbourne Croatia 'keeper David Miller

one chance of note before the break as Chris Slater, in an effort symbolic of his dirty day, ran one-on-one at David Miller before planting the shot squarely into the goalkeeper's arms.

The turnabout at half time was, if not remarkable, at least marked.

Brisbane, throwing substitute Clayton Koch into a three-man front line, did its level best to peg back the goal.

That it didn't succeed is testimony to the class of Croatia circa 1991, as Bleiberg later testified.

"That was the difference between a club which is team-building and a well-oiled machine", he said of the home side.

So whilst Brisbane toiled and sweated, the class of Alan Davidson, clearly the focal point on Sunday, Jo Biskic, George Hannah, Andrew Marth and birthday boy Theo Selemidis continued to radiate throughout the minicrisis.

"He is an experienced, clever and superb-rate player with superb distribution and vision", said a beaming Kenny Murphy of Davidson after the game.

"Alan wasn't 100

percent before the game but we took a gamble and that was the best game he has played for me".

So whilst Brisbane was doing its pedestrian best led by mere mortals, Croatia's superstars - at least that is what they are shaping as so early in this campaign - took the game back by the scruff of the neck.

Croatia finally got its breathing space with 20 minutes to play as Biskic sent Kelic away and the lanky front man rolled his shot under Runje and watched helplessly as the ball dribbled agonisingly slowly over the line.

Seven minutes later Mori, on the ground just three minutes, ended an explosive run down the left with a searing 30 metre shot which fairly rocketed past Runje to make it 3-0.

Brisbane, denied seconds earlier when Miller pulled off a classic stop from Koch, got its consolation goal with four minutes to play when Ibro Cahut volleyed home Steve Bullock's looping cross from the right.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller, Donnelly, Talajic, Selemidis, Hannah, Marth, Milosevic (Mori 74), Biskic, Davidson, Kelic, Awaritefe.

BRISBANE UTD: Runje, Gwynne (D.Hunter 61), Cahut, A.Hunter, Mengotti, Bullock, Williams (Koch HT), Halligan, Pimblett, Stevenson, Slater.

GOALS: Awaritefe 8m, Kelic 70m and Mori 77m for Croatia; Cahut 84m for Brisbane.

YELLOW CARDS: Nil. **REFEREE:** N.Zachariadis.

CROWD: App.3200. **VOTES:** 3 - A.Davidson (MC), 2 - T.Selemidis (MC), 1 - J.Biskic (MC).

Olympic ready for big battle

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

MELBOURNE Croatia roll their soccer show into Sydney again this weekend, bringing their untarnished 100 per cent record along for the ride, to face a much determined Sydney Olympic, eager to knock the league leaders off for the first time this season.

None of Melbourne's four opponents have matched it with the pacesetters, but Olympic fresh from an embarrassing defeat at Heidelberg will be tough for Ken Murphy's men to crack.

In what shapes as the match of the round, the likes of Olympic's Peter Katholos, Gary Phillips and Zlatko Nastevski locking horns with Alan Davidson, Joe Biskic and Branco Milosevic in the trenches at St George Stadium, will be worth the ticket price alone.

Add to the blend the attacking exploits of Francis Awaritefe and Ivan Kelic for the visitors, and the much publicised talents of leading scorer Tim Bredbury, and the match should be a classic for the expected bumper crowd.

Olympic, with just two successes in 12 clashes against Croatia down the years, will again have their work cut out, and a high-scoring draw looks likely here.

Marconi, with their tails firmly between their legs, visit Adelaide City for what should be an enthralling Italian derby at Hindmarsh this Sunday.

The two Italian giants are familiar with jostling for positions at the top of the ladder, producing great matches in the past, however this time around, Marconi will be grappling for survival, while the Zebras have their sights firmly set on hurdling leaders Melbourne Croatia.

With injuries, suspensions and a new-look side, Marconi coach Berti Mariani has struggled to find any successful blend to date, with the leaky defence Mariani's biggest headache.

While Ian Gray's welcome return from suspension should bolster the visitors' engine room, David Seal's absence through suspensi-

on, will cause yet another reshuffle for the beleaguered Mariani.

City, on the other hand have no such problems, fresh from a devastating 4-1 win over the Sharks in front of a packed house at the weekend and running just a point off the top, the hosts would be more than happy to keep Marconi at the bottom of the table.

The battle scarred Adelaide Sharks will get no respite again this Sunday when they visit the free scoring South Melbourne at Middle Park.

Souths' only worry could be Micky Petersen's recurring hamstring injury that has plagued the elegant Socceroo since the start of this campaign.

The hosts have enhanced their proud home record this season, adding 11 goals in just two matches on their own patch.

The Greek derby clash should produce the usual fireworks, but with Souths boasting 14 victories in only 23 matches between the sides, anything less than both points for the home side would prove an upset.

The winless Melita, should have Robbie

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Newcastle BHP v Apia Leichhardt
South Melbourne Hellas v West Adelaide
Preston Makedonia v Melita Eagles
Wollongong City v Heidelberg United
Adelaide City v Marconi
Sydney Croatia v Brisbane United
Sydney Olympic v Melbourne Croatia

Wheatley and Hugo Gimenez back on deck for their visit to the unpredictable Preston.

The Eagles were unlucky against South Melbourne on Sunday, with the effervescent Marshall, Soper and tricky flanker Jarek Nowicki constantly menacing the efficient Hellas defence.

Coach Raul Blanco must include Wheatley and Gimenez back into the first 11, but will ponder Michael Reda's inclusion, following his fine debut against Souths.

More than likely Andrew Callanen, Reda, Gimenez and Aytak Genc will form the Eagles midfield, with Wheatley back at sweeper, with perhaps Lenny Vial travelling on the bench.

Preston, despite a solid record at Connor Reserve, have lost three of their four matches to date, while Melita have managed just one goal to go with their solitary point.

A draw here looks on

the cards, with both sides attempting to climb away from the bottom.

Newcastle should prove too good for the goalshy APIA, with the injured Ralph Maier and Dominic Longo set to return for the Breakers, while a draw looks likely when Sydney Croatia host Brisbane United, and the unbeaten Wolves should account for Heidelberg at Brandon Park.

YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 4 RESULTS

Newcastle Breakers 1 v Sydney Croatia 5.
Apia Leichhardt 5 v Wollongong Macedonia 0.
AIS 2 v Sydney Croatia Colts 1.
Melita Eagles 3 v Sydney Olympic Colts 0.
Marconi 3 v Wollongong City 0.
Highfields Azzurri 2 v Adamstown Rosebuds 0.
St George 1 v Sydney Olympic 2.

Back into the fray!

BY GREG BLAKE

SOUTH Melbourne and Preston do battle for the fourth time in 35 days tomorrow night (Wednesday) as they meet in one of the opening four cut-throat NSL Cup first round ties.

The South Melbourne - Preston game is the feature match of an all-Melbourne double header under lights at Olympic Park.

The late kick-off game is between Melbourne Croatia and Heidelberg.

In other first round cup ties set down for decision tomorrow Wollongong City takes on Sydney Olympic at Brandon Park and the Hindmarsh Stadium is the venue for the battle of the co-tenants, Adelaide City and West Adelaide.

Other first round cup matches - Brisbane

United v Apia, Melita Eagles v Sydney Croatia and Newcastle v Marconi - are set down for decision on Wednesday, November 6.

Preston, beaten by a last-minute goal in the final against Melita Eagles last season, broke its run of cup final outs with a come-from-behind win against South Melbourne in Victoria's Gold Cup Final just three weeks ago.

But South Melbourne is clearly the NSL Cup specialist, having made the last four in every one of the past five seasons and bringing the trophy to Melbourne for the first time back in 1990.

The last time Souths took a first round cup exit was back in 1985, ironically at the hands of Preston.

South Melbourne beat Preston 4-2 in a Dockerty Cup semi final five weeks ago and followed that up with a 5-1 drubbing of John Gardiner's side in the

opening round of the league season.

Heidelberg gets its chance for revenge for a 4-1 second round league thrashing by Melbourne Croatia when the two sides meet in the late game at Olympic Park.

The Adelaide derby at Hindmarsh Stadium, between powerful City and the struggling Sharks, is a record-breaker before it starts.

This will be the tenth NSL Cup tie between the two clubs, making two-time cup winner Adelaide City and its nearest NSL neighbor the most common opponents in NSL Cup history.

High-flying Sydney Olympic will have no fears about the trip to Wollongong's Brandon Park for its first round match.

Olympic, another dual NSL cup-winner, hasn't lost to Wollongong on the south coast since 1982, a run spanning eight successive games.

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THE POOLS

SAT. 2nd NOVEMBER 1991

★ SCOTTISH DIVISION 1

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

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It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 326
SAT. 26th OCTOBER, 1991

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	ARSENAL	NOTTS CITY	1	2-0
	ASTON VILLA	WIMBLEDON	2	2-1
	CRYSTAL P.	CHELSEA	3	0-0
	LEEDS	OLDHAM	4	1-0
	LIVERPOOL	COVENTRY	5	1-0
	MAN. CITY	SHEFF. UTD.	6	3-2
	NORWICH	LUTON	7	1-0
	NOTTINGHAM F.	SOUTHAMPTON	8	1-3
	Q.P.R.	EVERTON	9	3-1
	SHEFF. WED.	MAN. UTD.	10	3-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	WEST HAM	TOTTENHAM	11	2-1
	BLACKBURN	GRIMSBY	12	2-1
	BRIGHTON	SWINDON	13	0-2
	BRISTOL C.	NEWCASTLE	14	1-1
	CAMBRIDGE U.	BARNSELY	15	2-1
	MIDDLESBORO	PORT VALE	16	1-0
	MILLWALL	DERBY	17	1-2
	OXFORD UTD.	LEICESTER	18	1-2
	PLYMOUTH	WATFORD	19	0-1
	PORTSMOUTH	IPSWICH	20	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	SOUTHEND	CHARLTON	21	1-1
	SUNDERLAND	BRISTOL R.	22	1-1
	WOLVES	TRANMERE	23	1-1
	BOURNEMOUTH	BRADFORD C.	24	1-3
	BURY	BRENTFORD	25	0-3
	CHESTER	BOLTON	26	0-1
	FULHAM	PRESTON	27	1-0
	HULL	DARLINGTON	28	5-2
	PETERBORO	HARTLEPOOL	29	3-2
	SHREWSBURY	READING	30	1-2
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	STOKE	LEYTON O.	31	2-0
	TORQUAY	SWANSEA	32	1-0
	WEST BROM.	BIRMINGHAM	33	0-1
	WIGAN A.	EXETER	34	4-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 5	CARDIFF	DONCASTER	35	2-1
	CARLISLE	CREWE	36	2-1
	CHESTERFIELD	HEREFORD	37	2-0
ENGLISH DIVISION 6	GILLINGHAM	NORTHAMPTON	38	3-0
	GRIMSBY	ROCHESTER	39	1-0



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 25/10/91 — WEEK 326

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURRED									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	36	2	39	3	47	4	28	36	60	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	61	12	13	14	15	16	63	52	52	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	62	17	67	56	64	63	56	63	52	7	6	5	0	11	8	3	6	1	0
31	66	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	21	20	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
41	67	27	67	65	60	59	64	60	78	31	7	32	31	34	35	36	37	38	4
51	68	32	64	33	34	35	36	37	38										
61	69	37	65	38	39	40	41	42	43										
71	70	44	71	45	46	47	48	49	50										
81	72	49	72	50	51	52	53	54	55										
91	73	56	73	57	58	59	60	61	62										
101	74	61	74	62	63	64	65	66	67										
111	75	66	75	67	68	69	70	71	72										
121	76	71	76	72	73	74	75	76	77										
131	77	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83										
141	78	81	78	82	83	84	85	86	87										
151	79	86	79	87	88	89	90	91	92										
161	80	91	80	92	93	94	95	96	97										
171	81	96	81	97	98	99	100	101	102										
181	82	101	82	102	103	104	105	106	107										
191	83	106	83	107	108	109	110	111	112										
201	84	111	84	112	113	114	115	116	117										

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools.

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools.

RESULTS OF WEEK 326 SAT OCTOBER 26, 1991

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):
3, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23.
Supplementary Number: 30.

UK SOCCER RESULTS AND TABLES

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE
Arsenal 2, Notts County 0, Aston Villa 2
Wimbledon 1, Crystal Palace 0, Chelsea 0, Leeds 1
Oldham 0, Liverpool 1, Coventry 0, Manchester City
3, Sheffield United 2, Norwich 1, Luton 0, Nottingham
Forest 1, Southampton 3, Queen's Park Rangers 3
Everton 1, Sheffield Wednesday 3, Manchester
United 2, West Ham 2, Tottenham 1

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO
Blackburn 2 Grimsby 1, Brighton 0 Swindon 2,
Bristol City 1 Newcastle 1, Cambridge 2 Barnsley 1,
Middlesbrough 1 Port Vale 0, Millwall 1 Derby 2,
Oxford 1 Leicester 2, Plymouth 0 Watford 1,
Portsmouth 1 Ipswich 1, Sunderland 1 Bristol Rovers
1, Wolverhampton 1 Tranmere 1, Southend 1,
Charlton 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION
Airdrieonians 1 Dundee United 3 (brought forward from November 19). Motherwell 0 Hearts 1. Rangers 1 Falkirk 1. St Johnstone 1 Aberdeen 3. St Mirren 0 Celtic 5. Postponed: Dunfermline v Dundee United. Hibernian v Airdrieonians.

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Bournemouth 1 Bradford 3. Bury 0 Brentford 3.
Chester 0 Bolton 1. Fulham 1 Preston 0. Hull 5
Darlington 2. Peterborough 3 Hartlepool 2. Shrews-
bury 1 Reading 2. Stoke 2 Leyton Orient 0. Torquay
1 Swansea 0. West Bromwich 0 Birmingham 1.
Wigan 4 Exeter 1. Played Friday: Huddersfield 0
Stockport 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR

Cardiff 2 Doncaster 1, Carlisle 2 Crewe 1.
Chesterfield 2 Hereford 0, Gillingham 3 Northamp-
ton 1, Lincoln 0 Burnley 3, Rochdale 1 Halifax 0.
Scarborough 0 Barnet 4, Scunthorpe 1 Mansfield 4.
Walsall 3 Aldershot 1, Postponed: Blackpool v

5. Aldershot 1. Postponed. Blam. Played Friday: Rotherham 4

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE
Dundee 0 Morton 1, Forfar 0 Hamilton 0.
Kilmarnock 2 Clydebank 1, Meadowbank 0 Mont-
rose 0, Partick 3 Ayr 0, Stirling 1 Raith 3.

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO
on 1 Stenhousemuir 1, Arbroath 2

NORTHERN IRISH LEAGUE

men: 1. Glenavon 2. Bangor
1. Omagh 2. Cliftonville 1. B.

1 Carrick 1 Omagh 2. Cliftonville 1 Ballyclare 2.
Distillery 1 Coleraine 2. Glentoran 2 Larne 0. Newry
1 Crusaders 0. Portladow 0 Linfield 0.

	ENGLISH 1ST DIV							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	
Leeds	14	8	5	1	25	12	29	
Manchester United	13	8	1	1	21	7	28	
Manchester City	14	8	1	5	19	17	25	
Arsenal	13	3	1	5	29	17	25	
Sheffield Wednesday	14	7	3	4	26	18	24	
Aslon Villa	14	6	3	5	20	15	21	
Crystal Palace	13	6	3	4	22	24	21	
Liverpool	12	5	5	2	14	10	20	
Coventry	14	6	2	6	16	13	20	
Chelsea	14	4	7	3	23	20	19	
Norwich	14	4	7	3	16	17	19	
Wimbledon	14	5	2	7	22	18	17	
Tottenham	11	5	1	7	22	17	17	
Nottingham Forest	13	5	1	7	24	24	16	
Everton	14	4	4	6	20	21	16	
Oldham	13	4	3	6	19	20	15	
West Ham	14	3	6	5	16	19	15	
Queen's Park Rangers	14	3	6	5	14	20	15	
Notts County	14	4	3	7	17	25	15	
Southampton	14	3	4	7	13	22	13	
Luton	14	2	3	8	8	30	13	
Sheffield United	14	2	3	8	20	20	12	

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	ENGLISH DIVISION TWO					
	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Middlesbrough	15	9	2	4	20	11 29
Cambridge	15	8	3	3	26	16 28
Carlisle	14	8	3	3	21	14 27
Swindon	13	10	3	2	22	14 27
Ipswich	13	7	5	2	23	19 26
Derby	14	7	4	3	22	14 25
Leicester	13	7	1	5	18	18 22
Blackburn	13	6	3	4	18	13 21
Bristol City	14	5	5	4	18	21 20
Wolverhampton	13	5	4	4	18	17 19
Southend	13	5	4	4	13	14 19
Portsmouth	13	5	4	4	13	13 19
Grimsby	13	5	2	6	19	22 17
Port Vale	15	4	5	6	15	18 16
Tranmere	13	3	7	3	18	17 16
Sunderland	14	4	4	6	25	26 16
Watford	13	5	1	7	15	16 16
Millwall	14	3	5	7	21	21 15
Brighton	14	4	3	7	25	19 15
Newcastle	14	3	5	6	22	27 14
Barnsley	15	4	2	9	15	24 14

Bristol Rovers	13	2	4	7	14	21	10
Oxford	14	3	1	10	19	27	10
Plymouth	13	2	3	8	13	22	9

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Rangers	14	10	2	2	33	10
Hearts	14	10	2	2	19	12
Aberdeen	14	9	3	2	22	8
Celtic	14	8	2	4	32	17
Hibernian	13	6	6	1	19	11
Dundee United	14	4	6	4	24	18
Motherwell	14	5	4	5	14	14
Falkirk	14	4	6	6	22	28
St Johnstone	14	4	4	6	17	18
Airdrieonians	14	3	3	10	17	28
St Mirren	14	1	3	10	13	32
Dunfermline	13	0	2	11	4	32

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	F	W	D	F	A	P
Birmingham	13	8	4	1	23	13
Brentford	13	9	0	4	25	16
West Bromwich	13	8	2	3	20	12
Stockport	13	7	2	4	25	16
Huddersfield	13	6	4	3	16	11
Stoke	13	5	6	3	17	13
Fulham	13	6	3	4	24	16
Exeter	13	5	4	4	24	26
Bradford	13	5	5	3	23	19
Leyton Orient	13	5	4	4	18	17
Bolton	13	5	4	4	19	19
Hull	13	5	2	6	18	17
Preston	13	4	5	4	17	16
Shrewsbury	13	4	4	3	15	16
Bournemouth	13	4	4	3	17	16
Reading	13	4	5	5	14	16
Bury	13	4	3	6	22	25
Hartlepool	13	4	3	6	20	23
Peterborough	13	3	5	5	11	19
Chester	13	3	5	5	15	16
Mippan	13	3	5	6	18	22
Cardington	12	2	4	6	22	10
Swansea	12	2	4	6	17	10
Torquay	13	3	0	10	11	22

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Mansfield	12	9	2	1	25	7	29
Barnet	13	9	2	2	33	17	29
Blackpool	12	7	3	2	20	9	24
Hereford	12	7	2	3	16	9	23
Walsall	12	7	2	3	21	16	23
Rochdale	13	6	2	4	21	16	23
Burnley	12	7	1	4	25	12	22
Rotherham	12	6	4	2	22	12	22
Chesterfield	13	6	2	5	13	13	20
Crewsley	13	6	4	4	26	19	19
Accrington	14	4	4	4	26	19	19
Cardiff	12	4	4	4	17	16	16
Gillingham	12	4	3	5	19	15	15
Wrexham	12	3	4	5	16	23	13
Northampton	12	3	4	5	14	16	12
Alfreton	12	3	4	5	16	16	12
Scarborough	13	3	5	5	15	17	12
York	12	2	5	5	11	16	11
Lincoln	12	3	2	7	8	22	11
Carlisle	13	2	6	7	15	23	10
Maidstone	12	2	4	6	10	21	10
Widnes	12	2	4	6	11	19	9
Doncaster	13	1	3	9	13	27	6

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	APIs
Partick	14	10	1	3	28	14 21
Dundee	14	10	1	3	29	16 21
Morton	14	8	3	3	23	15 18
Hamilton	14	6	3	5	23	15 18
Kilmarnock	14	6	4	4	17	13 16
Ayr	14	7	1	6	32	24 15
Raith	14	6	2	6	15	16 14
Clydebank	14	4	3	7	22	22 11
Montrose	14	2	6	6	16	24 10
Meadowbank	14	2	6	6	16	26 7
Stirling	14	2	3	9	12	25 10

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	APts
Clyde	13	8	3	2	21	10 19
Dumbarton	13	8	3	3	26	15 18
Dundee Heath	12	7	3	3	21	18 17
East Fife	13	6	3	4	26	10 15
Brechin	13	6	3	4	26	20 15
Arbroath	13	4	6	3	21	20 14
Stranraer	13	6	2	5	18	17 14
East Stirling	13	5	5	3	30	30 13
Queen of the South	13	5	1	7	22	31 11
Queen's Park	13	4	2	7	20	28 10
Glenhouse Muir	13	4	3	6	14	18 9
Alloa	13	3	3	7	12	18 9
Albion	13	2	5	6	16	23 9
Berwick	13	2	4	7	12	18 8

AROUND AND ABOUT THE NSL



Oh, to be a winner!



Old warhorse Graham Jennings.

LONG serving Apia Leichhardt defender Graham Jennings wants a winner's medal before he finally decides to call an end to his National Soccer League career.

Jennings, a former Socceroo who will be 32 next year, still shows an enthusiasm which belies his length of service.

His medal chances don't appear promising at this state with Apia way down the ladder.

"But it's early stages yet and it's much too soon to start thinking of pressing panic buttons," he said.

Jennings started his NSL career with Sydney Olympic in 1979, two years after the league was formed and specialised in flashing wing runs until he converted into an overlapping fullback.

His speed often carried him past slower moving defenders and won him a place in the Socceroos' and World Cup campaigns.

"My running is not so much a gallop now as it is a canter and I'm not overlapping as much," said Jennings.

"I haven't got tired of the game and still feel fit enough to play. The big incentive is to be in a premiership winning team.

"So far, I've been in a northern division winning side which lost in the playoffs and runner-up twice in grand finals."

Jennings is amongst a

small group who have remained this season with Apia after the club lost more than half of last year's side.

Milan Blagojevic, Alex Bundalo, Gerry Gomez, Klaus Okon, Peter Murray and Dave Batten have gone while the new signings have been Lawrie McKinna, Jeff Doyle, Scott Ollerenshaw and Rino Michiello.

McKinna broke his leg in two places during the NSW State League grand final and will probably miss most of the season.

"But Ollerenshaw looks pretty sharp and wants to get amongst the goals again while Rod Brown also looks dangerous and has had a confidence boost," said Jennings.

Win formula

BRISBANE United coach Miron Bleiberg will stick to his successful formula of picking players to suit the occasion.

But Bleiberg is not getting carried away by United's flying start in the NSL.

"I like to make changes, not just stick with the same winning eleven," said Bleiberg.

"You must consider the style the opposition play, the size of the pitch, the weather and who you are playing against before you pick a side.

"You have to think very hard about all those things, that's my job and that's what I get paid to do."

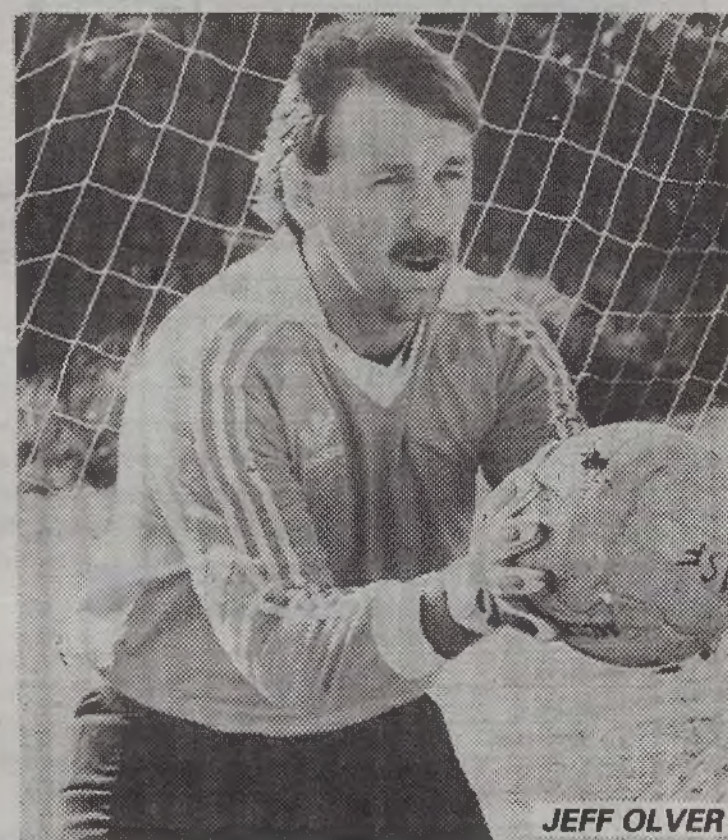
Striker Alan Hunter maintained his 100 per cent record for United at Perry Park last Sunday week with a penalty kick which beat Heidelberg goalie and Olympic teammates Jeff Olver.

Bleiberg admitted he was disappointed his players have not scored more goals.

"There are times when you get ahead of the opposition that you play to protect a lead," he said.

"But we had a few missions at the start of the season and one of them was not to play negative soccer at home.

"We are improving with each game."



JEFF OLVER

Hickman learns art of patience

SYDNEY Olympic, never noted for their careful build-ups, have suddenly learned the art of patience.

That's the opinion of coach Mick Hickman after the team's good start to the 1991/92 season.

"The players are becoming more patient and they're keeping the ball for longer periods," he said.

"One of our problems has been a tendency to kick too soon when in a scoring position or within range of goal but there has been a big improvement so far this season.

"But we still need more consistency and picking the right options during a game.

I'm not getting carried away. There's a long way to go."

Olympic have made their best start in years in the NSL.

Most of the success has come from the scoring prowess of newly-signed striker Tim Bredbury, who leads the NSL scoring list.

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Ratcliffe has goal problem

WOLLONGONG City coach David Ratcliffe is worried about his team's lack of finishing power.

Although Wollongong had not conceded a goal in their first three NSL games, they haven't been scoring either and two of their four matches have been scoreless draws.

During the off-season, Ratcliffe signed John Filan and Mike O'Shea from St George, Craig Sharpley (Sydney Olympic), Kevin Hagan (Olympic), Mike Smith from NSW State League Second Division premier Waverley and also secured Alex Bundalo (Apia Leichhardt).

The signings were necessary to provide more quality in midfield and attack.

"We were after Bundalo, Peter Murray and Scott Ollerenshaw.

"Murray went to Hong Kong and Ollerenshaw to Apia so we wound up with only Bundalo from our chase," said Ratcliffe.

"Wollongong has a lot more depth this year but we still haven't got one player we can point at and say he'll get goals this year.

"I'm still experimenting with a forward line but the hope is that Bundalo, once he gets into top condition, will be able to add punch from midfield and be on hand to score."

AROUND THE NATION

Second stage

BY
ROBERT WHEATLEY

The appointment of Development Officers (DOs) by each of this season's NSL clubs has reached the stage where, initial training aside and school holidays over, implementation of an annual program of school and junior club visits is underway.

The hope that this program will help achieve a greater awareness of the clubs in the community and of the NSL in general is being realised on a daily basis.

The benefits will not only flow to the NSL clubs in terms of improved local support; but will also encourage local players to trial with clubs offering the highest level of attainment in their area.

Club sponsors have also realised that the DOs are an important link in the overall package that they arrange

with clubs. In many cases the scheme will serve to break down the ethnic barriers which have always affected the image and appeal of Australian soccer.

The sooner that young supporters associate soccer with Brian Ellem (Apia Leichhardt DO) and Andrew Callanan (Parramatta-Melita Eagles DO) for example, the greater the chance that barriers to the game will be brought down. The rhetoric, in regards to development work outlined in the Bradley report, is slowly being turned into reality and the approach to optimal implementation may change during the early days of the program.

The Parramatta-Melita Eagles sponsors' night, held last week at the South Granville headquarters, gave special emphasis to the work of the DO. In his current part time capacity, Andrew Callanan, will become an exten-

sion of the commercial and sponsorship side of the club's activities. The very nature of his position means that he comes in daily contact with hundreds of people who are made aware of the club's sponsors and their activities.

The club's commitment to linking itself with the city of Parramatta, as evidenced by its addition to the club's official title, is another serious reminder of the community ties that will be enhanced by this sensible initiative.

The fruits of this move are demonstrated by the assistance of the Parramatta Mercury newspaper and its vital financial input into the development officer's fund. Other major sponsors, Air Malta, Rheem and Bank of Valetta, appreciated the extra exposure they will receive via their club's DO in the arena of the general public. It is probably fair to say that many clubs have abandoned development

ideas once the season is in full swing in past years. The employment by clubs of a DO must generate more enthusiasm for the NSL.

And that's excellent for the game.

Other club's DOs, including Mark Bosnich and Brian Ellem, are engaged in continuing promotional work such as attending the Champion of Champions' finals on the weekend at Parklea. This highly successful event allowed them to distribute what has been described as the soccer show bag. Each player in the 30 teams that participated on the day received a bag containing Socceroo and Roo Ball posters, NSL draws, coaching books, rule books, Wonderland stickers and passes as well as Kanga Cup 92 information.

Players who met the DOs and received the pack were in no doubt that development officers are definitely on the move.

Stormbirds fly

BY **GRAHAM COOKE**

STORMBIRDS women's soccer club will link with the Southern Cross Club next season.

Announcing the news at the Stormbirds' presentation night, president Meena Jinna said the move would assure the club's future.

The last couple of seasons have been traumatic for Stormbirds, the oldest women's outfit in the ACT. Their traditional backer, the Canberra Dutch Club, was taken over by the Raiders' Club as part of the establishment of its licenced premises at Mawson. Raiders promised to maintain and even improve the sponsorship, but when they slipped into financial difficulties that came to nothing.

Stormbirds' association with Southern Cross, the largest and one of the oldest licenced clubs in Canberra, looks a much safer proposition.

Awards were: First Division best and fairest, Kay Brenton; most consistent, Nina Matic; most

improved, Paula Koskonidis, highest scorer, Tracey Carr. Reserve Division best and fairest, Bridget Barriere; most consistent, Tania Chertok; most improved, Christine Jackson; highest scorer, Elizabeth Jones. Second Division best and fairest, Rosann Shroder; most consistent, Amy Broomfield; most improved, Jane Turketo; highest scorer, Sandra Roussell. Third Division best and fairest, Alison Fuller; most consistent, Teresa Helming; most improved, Gabby Kulcsar; highest scorer, Delanie Lewis.

Player of the future, Bianca Lee. Quiet Achiever, Saadia Abdul-Karim. Stormbird of the Year, Marie Trianterfilou.

★AND news of Stormbirds' former Australian goalkeeper Sara King, currently on a soccer scholarship in the United States.

King's Mt Ida College is top of its division for the first time in its history with just three goals conceded in six games, and King herself is ranked as the fourth best 'keeper in the nation.

EXPOS indoor soccer club has returned to Canberra from the Masters' Games in Queensland with a silver medal.

Playing in a round-robin competition, the team, based on members and friends of the Espo family, won five and drew two of its nine matches to finish runner up behind Bayside International from Queensland.

Full results were: Dad's Army, won 4-2; St Mary's Strikers, won 9-4; ANZ Eager Beavers, lost 7-3; Bayside International, lost 4-0; Mustangs, drew 2-2; Gold Coast, won 4-2; Brisbane Hungaria, won 5-0; Epping Spartans drew 2-2; Villa, won 4-1.

Taking part in the northern campaign were: Mick Black, John Brown, Joe Exposito, Des Exposito, Santi Exposito, Terry Jeffrey, Martin Fernandez, Alan Jones, Paco Leal, Nick Hueso. Trainer Gabi Exposito.

It's now back to earth for the Expos, playing in the veterans and second-division competitions at Erindale during the summer.

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GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES

Real hangover cure for Hellas



DEFENDING NSL champion South Melbourne is using the recent examples of emotional premiership drought-breakers as spur for 1991-92.

South star Kimon Taliadoros says the recent exploits of Sydney Olympic and AFL (Aussie Rules) side Collingwood are prime examples of sides suffering from championship hangovers.

Olympic, for the first time in club history, and Collingwood, after 32 years of frustration, won the championships of their respective competitions in 1990 only for both to completely miss the play-offs the following season.

But the Middle Park side isn't about to fall into the same trap as it chases back-to-back NSL titles this season.

"We are well aware of the after-effects of a grand final win and we are determined not to be victims of that", says Taliadoros of his side's barnstorming

start to the season.

"The grand final has only made us hungry for more success and we are only focusing on what is ahead, rather than what we achieved last season".

Taliadoros says the blue and white machine is also well aware of suggestions that Souths were lucky to win the title last season.

And the Hellas boys want nothing more than reach the grand final the first weekend in May and make certain that this side convinces everyone of their right to be proclaimed champions of Australia.

"We know we were a bit fortunate last year but it wasn't by any means a fluke and we want to go back and prove just that", he says.

"And I think we'll do just that."

"There is a real driving spirit at the club these days."

"The team spirit there is an integral part of our game."

"Each individual is determined and that magnificent team spirit keeps us on the track

and motivated each week".

South Melbourne, which has rolled over Preston and Apia in its two home games and run up 11 goals in the process, was soundly beaten in an upset at Newcastle in round two and, according to Taliadoros, the defeat couldn't have come at a better time.

"Losing doesn't go down too well at South Melbourne these days", he told ABSW.

"None of the players enjoy it at all and that game inspired us for the next week."

"It's just a matter of retaining that intensity week-in week-out."

"As well, I think it helps that there is so much competitive spirit at the club these days."

"In my case inconsistency has always been my biggest problem and that leaves the door open for Con Boutsianis, Micheal Michalakopoulos or others to replace me."

"Hellas has got great depth these days and having players

competing for spots is important."

"I think that sort of competition for places augurs well for the club".

For Taliadoros, a barnstorming, burly forward who is yet to peak as a player, season 1991-92 is the year he intends to leave his mark on the competition.

If Hellas is going to go back-to-back, the big man intends playing an integral role in the history-making season.

Which certainly means curbing his sometimes overly aggressive on-field nature.

"That (nature) is not totally gone", says the club's opening day hat-trick hero.

"It is just that Mr Puskas' influence has been such that I know I have to be level-headed for the sake of the team and that it serves no purpose getting carried away."

"I'm really trying to concentrate on being consistent and maintaining my form this year", he says.



KIM TALIAADOROS

The Murph set to dump four of his squad in cut down



KEN MURPHY

MELBOURNE Croatia coach Ken Murphy is set to dump up to four players from his senior squad.

Murphy, bubbling after his side's cracking start to the new campaign, has approached the Croatia committee about culling the senior squad, which currently

numbers some 20 players.

Murphy believes that the large squad is impossible to manage and that at least two fringe youth team players would have to miss the cut.

The only senior player on shaky ground appears to be defender Vlado Vanis, a visa player who faces beating out the likes of Alan Davidson, Theo Selemidis and George Hannah for a first-team place.

"It's just too hard managing that many players", Murphy told ABSW.

"I've talked to the committee about it and they agree that something has to be done."

"When you think about it, 20 players is virtually having two teams on the park at training."

"It is impossible when you are trying to involve so many players and look after them individually."

Murphy, in his roo-

kie season as an NSL coach, isn't about to be carried away by his new side's club record-breaking start to the season.

"It's only four games, so you can't get carried away", he said.

Murphy stayed on in Sydney after his side beat Sydney Croatia to watch the 1989 and 1990 grand final replay between Olympic and Marconi and liked what he saw.

Whilst warning not to write-off Marconi just yet, Murphy also admits that Olympic is a side to be reckoned with this season.

"It was a great game", he said of the Sydney derby.

"Olympic looked great in the first half and they looked like scoring every time they went forward."

"Marconi came back well and in the end looked as if they might win."

"But for me Sydney Olympic looks the greatest danger at this stage".

Robbie says no to a pay cut and is now on his merry way

THREE club NSL veteran Robbie Markovac has been transfer-listed by Preston Makedonia after refusing to take a 25 percent pay cut.

The former Melbourne Croatia and Sunshine George Cross star is up for sale at \$12,000.

Markovac, a 174 game NSL player, was asked to take the pay cut as part of Preston's across-the-board cost-cutting measures.

But Markovac, who says he was prepared to take a lesser cut to come to an agreement with his club of three years, says he is not in a position to take such a dramatic loss in wages now that he is out of work.

"It's all very unfortunate really", Markovac explained.

"They asked me to take the 25 percent cut and wouldn't budge."

"I had three discussions with the club and was prepared to come a



MEKO HOLDINGS

ROBBIE MARKOVAC

little lower than last year but I didn't get any sort of a positive response."

"We agreed that we couldn't come to a solution and they said 'OK, you're on the transfer list'."

Markovac said the negotiations broke down without the knowledge of coach

John Gardiner and that Gardiner had since expressed his desire to keep the attacking midfielder at Connor Reserve.

Gardiner has tried to resolve the situation with the club but Markovac believes there is little chance of him returning to Preston.

"To be honest it would be a bit degrading to play under the conditions they've offered me", he told ABSW.

"I give people a fair go and I'm an easy-going guy, but I won't be taken advantage of."

"As it is now, I'm just waiting for a call from another club."

"I'm out of work so I'm prepared to move interstate."

"It's just not a nice feeling being in limbo and not knowing what's going to happen next."

Ironically, Markovac's last appearance in the red and black was in the 1991 Gold Cup Final as Preston broke its long-running cup final drought against South Melbourne.

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It's all happening in Victoria at NSL and State League level

BY GREG BLAKE

THE 1991 Victorian Premier League multiple award winner Sash Becvinovski might be forced to sit out the NSL season following the breakdown of transfer negotiations with Heidelberg.

And South Melbourne's 1991 grand final goalscorer hero Joe Palatsides has been transfer-listed by the Middle Park club, along with fringe player Paul Fernandes.

Becvinovski had a glorious return to the Premier League this season after a nightmare stint with Wollongong Macedonia last summer.

Playing with struggling Green Gully, Becvinovski still managed to finish the season as league top scorer and was named Premier League Under-21 best player for 1991.

Re-building Heidelberg was looking for Becvinovski to lead its attack but negotiations broke down after a dispute over a contract maximum.

The player, whose current contract maximum is \$3,200, wanted a transfer maximum in his contract with the Bergers.

Heidelberg has refused to sign him on anything other than an open contract.

"It's very disappointing for me", says Becvinovski.

"I'd do anything to play NSL but apart from Heidelberg I haven't had any other offers.

Palatsides has been transfer-listed by South Melbourne after he couldn't agree to terms in his new contract with the current Australian champions.



Under-21 Best: Sash Becvinovski receives his award from VSF chairman Vito Cilauro.

Palatsides, who scored South's dramatic late equaliser in the grand final last season, has been listed at \$18,000, along with Fernandes, who is on the list at his own request after two years of frustration at not being able to claim a regular place in the powerful senior team.

West Adelaide and Sydney Croatia have both expressed some interest in obtaining Palatsides' services.

The former Brunswick Juventus and Melbourne City star says he's disappointed to leave Middle Park but irregular senior outings have made his spell at the club disappointing.

"It is a good club and nobody really wants to leave", he said last week.

"But they have offered me less than my last

contract and I feel it is time to move on".

Palatsides is back in training after slightly straining a medial ligament in a pre-season game.

Fernandes, a strong defender who would almost certainly walk into most NSL sides, has seen his career chances frustrated by the calibre of players selected ahead of him.

After two years of almost ever-present bench-warming Fernandes, a former Hellas junior, wants a chance to cement his NSL senior career.

Fernandes, whose offer to continue to play a fill-in senior role at Middle Park until he gets a move was knocked back by coach Ferenc Puskas, has indicated he would be prepared to move interstate to continue in the NSL.

BY GREG BLAKE

THREE Greek-backed Victorian first division clubs must face the Victorian Soccer Federation Investigations and Disciplinary Committee tomorrow night (Wednesday) as the VSF attempts to unravel the details of an alleged bribery scandal.

Two clubs, Caulfield City and Mordialloc, may face disciplinary action from the VSF should the committee find that, based on the evidence submitted tomorrow night, there are any charges to answer.

The case, which also involves relegated Port Melbourne, would then be heard by the Victorian Soccer Federation

tribunal.

It is alleged that two of the clubs conspired to 'fix' a result which would effectively save the one them from relegation from division one.

Caulfield defeated Mordialloc 1-0 in the third-last round of the first division season.

The result was subsequently overturned and the game awarded to Mordialloc, giving it the points needed to survive the drop, after the bayside club lodged an appeal against the result on the Monday after the game was played.

The appeal was successful on the grounds that Caulfield had played an ineligible player in the match.

The allegations surround the use of the suspended player on that day despite a VSF docu-

ment informing the club of the suspension of the player.

The use of that player allowed Mordialloc to appeal against the result if it lost the game, as was the case.

At the appeal against the result Caulfield claimed that its secretary had neglected his duties and had not opened the VSF letter regarding the player's suspension until the Monday after the game.

According to VSF spokesman Terry Jones, tomorrow night's hearing is to establish if the allegations have any substance.

"All three clubs will be interviewed separately (by the I and D committee) to either scotch the rumours or supply tangible evidence of bribery", Jones told ABSW.

The key evidence in

the case is believed to be a cassette recording which incriminates a club official.

There have been suggestions of further conspiracy to 'doctor' results by clubs in division one.

Port Melbourne played and beat Caulfield 2-0 in the penultimate league round one week later.

Both Caulfield and Port Melbourne have engaged solicitors over the issue.

Four clubs were relegated from division one in 1991, with Port Melbourne finishing fifth from bottom on 21 points — equal with Mordialloc — after the home-and-away matches.

The result of Mordialloc's appeal against the Caulfield result gave it 23 points and subsequent safety.

Soccer for Western Oval?

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Footscray City Council is confident that it can lure soccer to the Western Oval, the current home of AFL (Aussie Rules) club Footscray.

The council and the football club, which has already installed a baseball club as a co-tenant at the ground and has made a submission to the NSW Rugby League regarding a Melbourne base for that code, met with soccer officials ten days ago in a bid to involve the round-ball code at the ground.

VSF chairman Vito Cilauro, who, along with ASF representative Ian Holmes, was a part of the soccer delegation, believes the

Western Oval, currently undergoing a \$4 million facelift, could be utilised as a venue during the 1993 World Youth Championships.

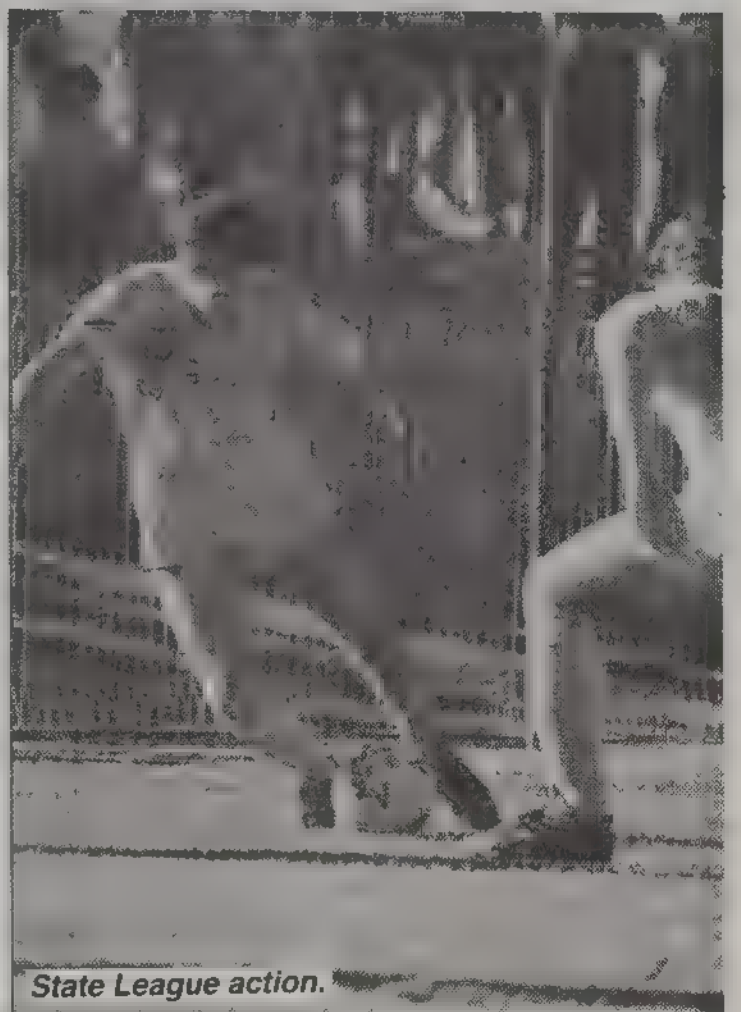
"The facilities are of a very high standard, a standard which is currently lacking in Victorian soccer", said Cilauro.

"I hope we will be utilising them shortly, initially with one club (George Cross) and then perhaps the World Youth Championship matches".

Footscray Mayor Cr Graham Johnson believes that hosting World Youth Championship matches at the Western Oval would be a real coup for Footscray.

"The World Youth Championship matches were played in Portugal this year in front of crowds of 120,000 and a TV audience of hundreds of millions of people around the world", he told ABSW.

"Imagine how that would put Footscray on



State League action.

the map.

"The addition of soccer would help ensure that the Western Oval becomes the premier sporting facility in the region as we have envisaged.

"The council is keen for soccer to come to the ground, as it has poured a lot of money into upgrading the facilities there and wants to see maximum usage as its return".

A result at last!

BY GREG BLAKE

THE on-again, off-again Victorian Soccer Federation-run summer Youth League will go ahead as planned.

The competition, initially given the thumbs down by the ASF commissioners, will kick-off tomorrow night (Wednesday).

The key to allowing the competition to go

ahead is that no matches in the Victorian Youth League will be played in competition to NSL matches on a Sunday.

The VSF agreed to a compromise situation with the ASF when three of the commissioners met with the VSF Board of Management ten days ago.

The ASF Commission had previously directed that the competition, formed to accommodate the unusually

large amount of clubs applying to join the Southern Division NSL Youth League, not go ahead.

The VSF argued that with no Sunday play, the new league offered no threat to the senior NSL competition.

It was conceded that competitions such as the Hellenic Cup and Coppa Italia posed more problems than the youth league might.

Part of the trade-off to allow the youth league

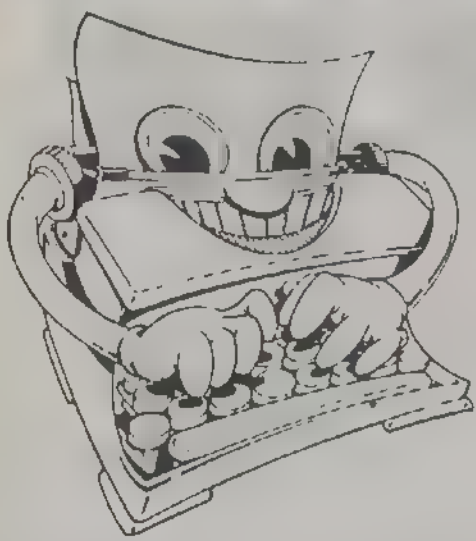
to go ahead this season could possibly be that, as from next season, the VSF will refuse to grant permission for any Sunday play in any post-league season competitions which might infringe on NSL matches in Melbourne.

Although a number of clubs have expressed disappointment at the youth league 'no Sunday play' ruling, the league is expected to start with a full complement of 20 teams as planned.

**LIVE NSL BROADCASTS
EVERY WEEKEND ON
1503 3AK'S SUPER
SOCCER SUNDAY**

* Join ABSW's Greg Blake and the rest of the team each week as they describe the action from the match of the round *

* Review show 10pm-12 Sunday nights



Expats keep on finding net!

BY LOU GAUTIER



Aurelio Vidmar

SOCCEEROOS Aurelio Vidmar and Graham Arnold have again scored goals in Belgium and Holland, but Robbie Slater is somewhat in a slump in France while Frank Farina is still chasing that elusive first goal for Bari in Italy.

Vidmar continues to be the only striker capable of scoring regularly for Kortrijk.

The former Adelaide City man notched a 65th minute equaliser against Brussels-based Molenbeek in a 1-1 draw last week.

Kortrijk also drew their next game, and are now fourth from the bottom in the Belgian First Division standings.

Arnold scored Roda JC's lone goal in their 3-1 defeat at Utrecht.

Arnie actually opened the scoring, with a 20th minute strike.

Despite the loss, Roda are doing quite nicely as they occupy a respectable seventh place in the Dutch First Division.

French-based Slater has hit a rough patch after brilliant early season form.

He and his team have gone into decline, with Robbie earning poor marks for his last two displays — and when Slater plays poorly, Lens suffer, so little wonder they have tumbled down the ladder to 14th place.

Frank Farina, despite a change of coach, continues to struggle with Bari, now very much threatened by relegation.

An added worry for Farina is the rumour that Bari may get Croatian ace Zvonimir Boban (ex-Dynamo Zagreb) on loan from AC Milan.

Though Boban would primarily go to Bari to replace the badly injured Brazilian, Jao Paulo, it has to be a worry for Farina, who is just not getting any sort of service from his teammates.

"We'll test Aussies," boast the Kiwis

NEW Zealand under-23 soccer coach Ian Marshall is convinced his team will test the Australians in the Olympic qualifying tournament in Fiji.

Missing from teams he fielded earlier in the year, against Australia and later in a series in New Caledonia are Chris Jackson, Steven Touhey, Kane Lynch and Gavin Wilkinson, because of school examinations, and Sean Armstrong who is going to Police College next month.

The inclusion of Michael Bourgoise (Nelson) and Andrew McAllister (Mt Roskill) further strengthens an already strong attacking lineup headed by Thomas Edge, Vaughan Coveny and Julian Fallon.

The players in the squad are Michael Utting (Miramar), Laurence Fitzpatrick (Christchurch), Jason New (Napier), Sean Rowland (North Shore), Matthew Byers (Manurewa), Gary Stone (Hutt Valley), Mark Atkinson (North Shore), Kenny Harlock (Manurewa), Vaughan Coveny (Miramar), Brian Christolm (Waikato), Thomas Edge (Waitakere City), Julian Fallon (Christchurch), Julian Bowden (Christchurch), Shane Gillies (Waikato), Malcolm Bourgoise (Nelson), Craig Ashton (Howick), Andrew McAllister (Mt Roskill), Jason Batty (North Shore).

The team will play warm-up matches in Queensland against Bundaberg and Queensland on October 30 and November 2 before flying to Fiji.

They will play the host country in Suva on November 7; Australia in Lautoka on November 13; Papua New Guinea in Nadi and Lautoka on November 15 and 18, and Fiji in Lautoka on November 20.

FIFA REFEREES

FIFA have changed their policy concerning international referees.

They are now appointed for one year only and every member federation must submit seven names for a 12 month period.

FIFA then decides whether the nominees will be granted international referee status

for a year.

Australia have nominated the following referees for 1992:

- ★ John Fraser
- ★ Richard Lorenc
- ★ Gary Power
- ★ John McConnell
- ★ Bill Monteverde
- ★ Peter Spiers
- ★ Tom McRoe

FIFA now have an age limit of 43 for their international referees.

FIFA, which are in

roducing a new panel for linesmen after adverse criticism at Italia '90, have also asked for seven nominations of linesmen from Australia.

Australia's nominations for international linesmen are: Eugene Brazzale, Rob Davies, Gordon Dunster, Kevin Tooke, Manny Loupis, Alex Spirovski and John Bowdler.



RICHARD LORENC

*** ALAN HUNTER ***
(Brisbane Utd)

* PLAYER PROFILE *



NAME: Alan Hunter
CLUB: Brisbane United
DATE OF BIRTH: 30/7/64
STAR SIGN: Leo
NICKNAME: Basil
HEIGHT & WEIGHT: 181cm, 95kg
MARRIED: Married to Helen — son Benjamin No 2 due January
PREFERRED PLAYING POSITION: Centre half-stopper
SENIOR PLAYING HISTORY: National League — 8 years
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Brisbane Lions, Heidelberg, Sydney Croatia, Melita Eagles
JUNIOR PLAYING HISTORY: Acacia Ridge Soccer club — 10 years
REP. TEAMS PLAYED: Queensland U/15 Youth team and Queensland team (Seniors) Australian Soccerroos — 10 appearances
MOST INFLUENCE ON SPORTING CAREER: Simon Kistemaxer, Frank Arok, my father and wife.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Breaking leg in Holland whilst on trial 1990.
GREATEST MOMENT: Scoring for Australia in 1987.
OTHER SPORTS PLAYED: Tennis, swimming and snooker
FAVOURITE PASTIMES: Dining out with friends and being fit!
FAVOURITE FOOD: Wife's cooking
FAVOURITE DRINK: Occasional beer
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: European Soccer and Fawcett Towers
FAVOURITE MUSIC/BAND: Elton John, Inxs
AMBITIONS: Town championship with Brisbane United and to bench!

England team do it in style

American Airlines has formed a major new partnership with England's Football Association, and has become the Official Carrier of the Association and the England Squad.

American will carry the team to their international matches in the United States and beyond, including the World Cup finals to be held in America in 1994.

American is also the Official Carrier for World Cup '94 soccer which will be held in 8 to 10 US cities.

American Airlines is Number One in Travel Agents' eyes.

For the second year in a row, American was named the "Best US Domestic Airline" by the American Society of Travel Agents.

American outdistanced the competition in a poll conducted by ASTA's Agency Management Magazine, and received the prestigious, Recognition of Excellence Award, at ASTA's conference in Taipei.

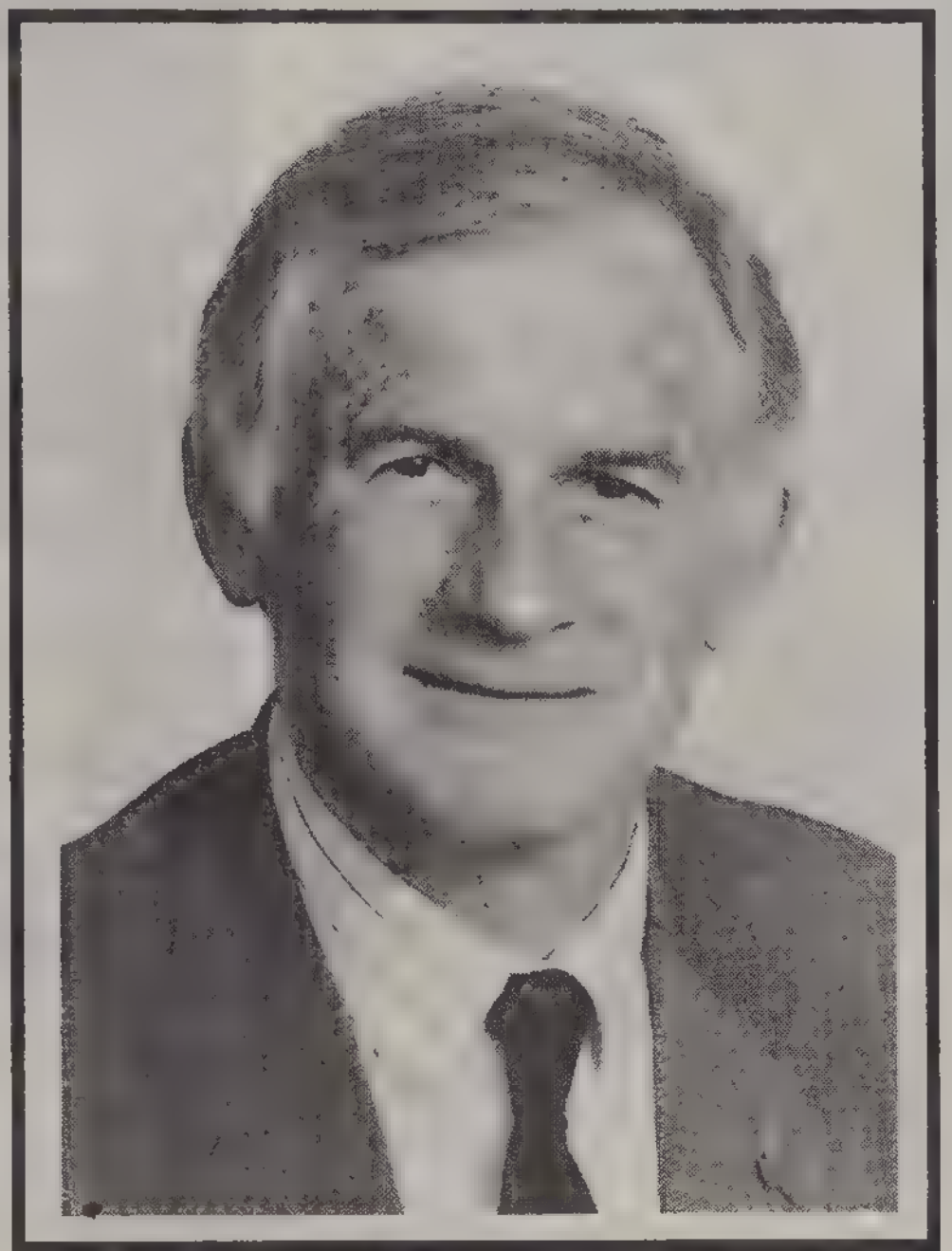
Just last month, American Airlines won the award for "Best US Transatlantic Airline" in a poll of British Travel Agents, and in July this year it took out top honors for having the "best red wine in the sky" in a judging by Sydney wine writers.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY OF SOCCER

Soccer is not just a sport, but a profession.

If you believe you have the talent, you want to be famous, earn a great deal of money, be admired, travel the world and do what you would love to do - **PLAY PROFESSIONAL SOCCER** - then do not miss this opportunity to discuss this matter.

Mr Frank Arok, Director of Coaching and one of the most successful coaches in Australia with over seven years of coaching the Australian national team will be associated with the Melbourne University of soccer.



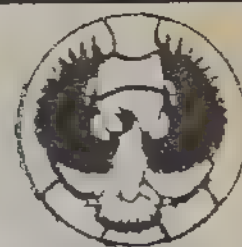
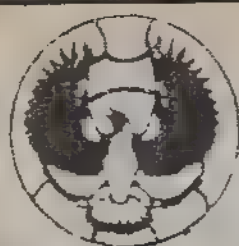
FRANK AROK

Mr Arok will not coach you for a weekend or week, but 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

The Melbourne University of Soccer will include full accommodation with meals, study and soccer training.

STUDENTS ACCEPTED FROM 7 YEARS UPWARDS

If the above interests you, please phone for an appointment to discuss this matter with Director of Coaches, Mr Frank Arok, on (03) 558-1299.



Latest Latin magic to help the Sharks!

WEST Adelaide has been given a boost in its National Soccer League artillery with the arrival of Uruguayan striker Mario Perucho, 22.

The striker has just completed his First Division commitments with Defensor and should be near peak fitness once he gets over any jet lag.

Perucho, who started his playing career at 18 as a junior with glamour club Penarol, has flown in to join West.

Perucho scored 11 goals this season after going to Defensor following a year in the Chilean First Division.

On paper, he looks to have the credentials to become a glamour asset for West.

ADELAIDE City and West Adelaide are the keenest of NSL rivals — but they don't mind helping each other, too.

Key West midfielder Adrian Santrac had to have intense physio treatment for a back complaint to be fit for Sunday's derby at Hindmarsh.

He visited the Sports-med SA rooms for treatment — from former City and All White star Glenn Dods.

CARLOS Buzzetti has arrived back in SA 'speechless' from a special development program course in Vanuatu, organised by soccer's governing body, FIFA.

Buzzetti and French coach of Tahiti, Pierre Retchert, were assistants of FIFA coaching maestro Heinz Marotzke, of Germany at the Futuro World Football Development Program.

Scotland's Tim 'Tiny' Wharton (re-

fereeing), Bernd Pfaff, Germany (sports administration) and Raul Madero, Argentina (sports medicine) were other guest lecturers.

A total of 80 attended the course with 30 coaches from the Oceania-Pacific region involved in practical work.

"I was very pleased with the course which gave us an insight to new trends and tendencies in modern football," Buzzetti said hoarsely after losing his voice on the trip.

"We were introduced to new methods of youth training and criteria for technique training as well as the formation of a youth team, selection, preparation and training tactics."

Buzzetti was the sole representative from Australia and will on-pass information to national and interstate coaching chiefs.

PORT Adelaide, despite finishing the season in the black, has had to continue its annual meeting to Thursday at the clubrooms.

"Our first meeting was the worst attended we have had at the club," a spokesman said. "We finished the season okay financially but, really, people have to realise that there are too many clubs with too few officials."

"Without officials, clubs cannot exist. Hopefully, we can get more out next week."

Star teenager Richie Alagich was named Port's Player of the Year from Con Karagiolis and George Drakos, Bill Tachos was the club's top scorer.

Martin Plunket was named Reserves' best. He edged out Shane



Action from the Croatia v Salisbury Cup final — Pic by JANUSZ KAMMA

Fulwood. Kim Perone was top scorer.

John Antoniadis was the Juniors' best from Dane Franic and Brian Smyth.

Special awards went to Jim Koufalis, Jason Eyndhoven and James Musci.

ADELAIDE City and West Adelaide had plush rooms in which to prepare for Sunday's derby clash.

"Renovations in the first phase of the downstars redevelopment should make the place fantastic," SA Soccer Federation general manager Tony Farrugia said.

"Melita boss Raul Blanco was pleasantly surprised by the standard of the pitch and the changing areas here."

The SASF annual sponsors' dinner will be on November 9 at the

Grosvenor Hotel.

SA Italian Association officials are sure their prolific marksman Matt Vario was the leading scorer in Saturday amateur League.

He scored nearly half of the side's 68 goals.

But D.Jostic, of Adelaide United, with 15 goals, was given the top scorers' award at the Amateur League presentations.

Chief Ian Gossland explained: "There appears to have been several discrepancies in referees' records that have led to wrong players being given awards."

"Unfortunately, if there are errors on referees' cards we cannot do anything about them."

ADELAIDE City and West Adelaide are put-

ting their best foot forward in developing young SA talent.

Ernie Tapai, Zoran Ilic and Ross Aloisi, of City, and West's Nick Stamatelopoulos, Mark Brazzale and Quentin Watkins have been involved in coaching schoolkids, in conjunction with SA development officer Carlos Buzzetti's programs.

The development plans are in line with criteria laid down to NSL clubs in the Bradley Report.

FORMER Socceroo Bobby Russell has decided to stay in SA to become manager of the Brompton Park Hotel.

He is keen to resume his playing career but would consider player-coaching role.

FORMER Socceroo and Adelaide City ever-

green Bugsy Nyskohus has big plans for Foundation SA League club Beograd of which he is player-coach.

"Attitude and consistency seemed to be a bit of a problem before but we have added a bit more discipline now to our play though we have some way to go," Nyskohus said.

"We now are competitive but since I came here I have said we need to strengthen to become very competitive."

"I know the players I want and will be making moves for them."

Adelaide City's reservoir of 'surplus' talent could be among his shopping places.

AZZURRI is likely to give youngsters a chance next season.

Tall, athletic defender Donato Deioso and

midfielder Frank Pagnozzi have played in the West End Premier Cup this year.

Burly teenage striker Dominic Amato, who was top scorer in this year's national under-15 titles in SA, will be reserved for next season.

"We have a couple of players in the under-16 and U18 sides we could draft in next year," team manager Karl Drosd said.

"We have to try to find a winning blend."

Drosd claimed classy defender Ian Cole was seeking a transfer and winger Angie Giannitto was contemplating his future.

Defender Damien Harley was Azzurri's best and fairest and Players' Player of the Year. Duane Gray was most consistent and Joe Cutillo most improved.





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Youngster faces a real tough choice



CRAIG MOORE

GUY HAND LOOKS AT THE SUNSHINE STATE

COALSTARS teenager Brenley Jefferd is torn between his schoolwork and a chance to make his mark in the NSL with Brisbane United.

Jefferd, one of five Queenslanders in the Australian under-17 train-on squad picked after the recent national titles in Canberra, has been asked to train with Brisbane United.

But Jefferd, 17, is not sure whether he will take up coach Miron Bleiberg's offer because he is completing Year 12 at Bundamba State High School in the next month.

"They asked me to come down and train with them, but I'm not too sure if I will or not," Jefferd said.

"I'm finishing Year 12 this year and I've already missed three

weeks through the nationals.

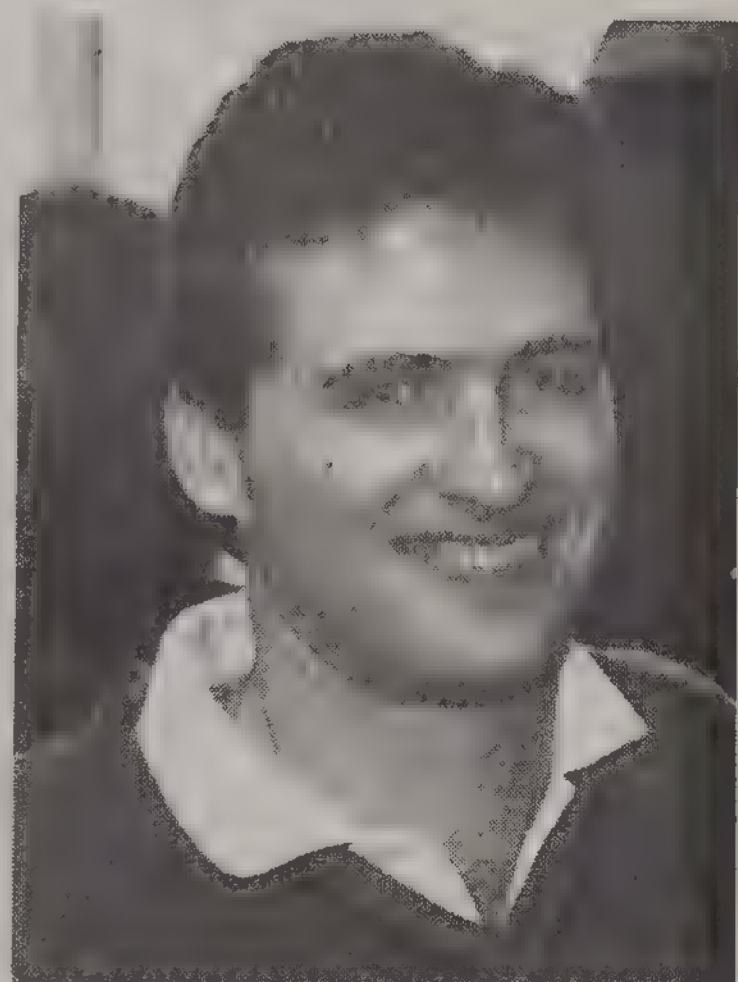
"I've been to training with Brisbane United before, but the squad is really big and there are a lot of experienced players and internationals.

"There's only the one team and there's not much chance of getting a game at the moment."

Brisbane-based Sean Cranney and Craig Moore, and AIS pair, Brad Ditton and Danny Stowers, were the other Queenslanders in the national under-17 train-on squad.

Like so many Queenslanders involved in national age sporting titles, Jefferd and his team-mates are disadvantaged by the State's different school holidays.

Most national titles are run during the school holidays in the



Coach Bleiberg

southern States, with the Queenslanders forced to miss vital schoolwork if they want to wear the Maroon jersey.

Jefferd, who needs a high Tertiary Entrance score to get into Queensland University's Human Movements course next year, missed more than most.

He missed a week of school to attend a train-

ing camp prior to the nationals, a week for the nationals and a week for Australian squad training.

"It's pretty hard to keep up, but I try to get ahead in my work before I leave and catch up when I get back," Jefferd said.

"Usually my teachers are pretty understanding about it all."

Roy of the Rovers looks for a much quieter existence

REAPPOINTED Taringa Rovers coach Glenn Davis believes he will be in a different boat this year to the one he was pitched into three weeks from the end of last season.

Davis was thrown in at the deep end last season when he replaced Wayne Warren as coach of the relegation-threatened Taringa with three XXXX League matches remaining.

But the club stalwart,

who coached Taringa from 1988 to 1990, managed to guide Rovers clear of the relegation zone with a 3-1 victory over Acacia Ridge in their last fixture.

Not only did the win save Taringa, it consigned the Ridge to division two.

Davis, who has spent 20 years as a player or coach with Taringa, has a different aim for the ambitious club this season — a berth in the semi-finals.

"I'm easily looking at a top five position for us," Davis said.

"We have the best

clubhouse in Brisbane, one of the best grounds in Brisbane and the best dressing room facilities of any club.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge and looking forward to a big year."

"We've got the potential to be the best club in Brisbane without doubt."

Davis said unlike previous years when Taringa had concentrated their spending on ground and clubhouse improvements, the club would delve into the transfer market in 1992.

"I'm not out to buy a new team," Davis said.

"We've still got the majority of the team that was here when I was in charge in 1990.

"We're just looking to add three or four quality players.

"We're in the process of writing to clubs asking to talk to certain players."

Taringa's strength is in their good young talent, with fullback Glenn Gwynne and striker Sean Cranney already deemed good enough to make the Brisbane United NSL squad.

A strange life!

A week is a long time in the National Soccer League — just ask Brisbane United striker Chris Slater.

Slater, 21, scored the winning goal in United's upset 1-0 win over Marconi three weeks ago, then found himself on the bench for the team's next game against Heidelberg.

While Slater was disappointed with being dropped after netting such a vital winner, he said it showed the strength of competition at United.

"Obviously I've just got to wait for my chance," Slater said.

"It's a big squad and the competition's really hot for places.

"My getting dropped is a good example of what the competition's like.

"I'll get my turn later."

Slater's well-taken winner saw him make plenty of headlines both in the Queensland and interstate press.

But Slater is also hoping to make a name for himself at the other end of the reporter's pen.

The Brisbane Lions player has just completed a journalist course at Queensland University and is finding out first-hand how hard

things are in the ailing newspaper industry.

Slater is now working as a salesman at a Brisbane Printing firm.

Despite his ambition to be a success in the NSL, the former Mackay junior is equally keen to have a career in journalism.

"With all players jobs have to come first," Slater said.

"I'm not on a wage with Brisbane United, so I've got to be loyal to the employer who's feeding me each week.

"My work's got to be my bread and butter, but I'm still 100 percent committed to Brisbane United."

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY CONTROVERSIAL AREA



those heady years it was put on the backburner.

I now revive it as a splendid promotional and coaching idea.

Famous South Coast Club, Corrimall Rangers, will hold its Centenary Celebrations on November 30.

To the many former players and supporters of the Wollongong club further details may be obtained on 042 843 781.

While admiring the time and effort that goes into producing individual match day programmes one wonders whether there is not a better way to cater for match day fans.

Marconi, Adelaide City for example and now Sydney Olympic and Melita of the clubs I have seen, make a top effort to produce a match day programme.

However, one feels an NSL Match Day programme covering all teams would be a better idea.

It has been tried, in a limited fashion, among the Sydney Clubs but now has reverted to every one doing their own thing.

An alternative, dare I say it, would be to take say an eight page supplement in ABSW!

If, like me, you've had difficulty understanding Australia's path to Barcelona for the Olympics, it goes something like this...

Australia, with a huge goal difference — and points advantage, plays its return legs in Fiji next month.

Those games are: v Papua New Guinea Nadi, November 11; v New Zealand, Lautoka November 13; v Fiji, Ba November 16.

Should the Australians win Oceania they meet a European opponent on a home and away basis for a spot in Barcelona.

That opponent will either be Israel, should they win their European QUALIFICATION group or the FIFTH best qualifier from Europe.

The fifth best qualifier, determined when the eight European group winners meet in a tournament in Barcelona next March, could be one of the following: Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Denmark, Holland, USSR, Italy or Norway, Germany or Belgium, Poland or Sweden.

NATIONAL Director of Coaching Mike Wells has released the ASF (business) Plan, a summary of which is listed below, for the next five years.

While applauding the scheme there is a controversial area relating to the National License Scheme, particularly in the area of NSL coaches.

The report says:
DUTY ROLE

"To initiate an ASF Coaching License Scheme."

OVERVIEW

Many leading countries of the world have a Coaches' License Scheme.

South Australia established its own Scheme based on overseas lines nearly ten years ago.

The advantages are:

- To register coaches and make them accountable to the governing body in terms of rules and regulations
 - To recognise the overseas qualifications of coaches within Australia
 - To grade Coaches according to their qualifications and practical coaching experience
- Most overseas countries use it as a vehicle to ensure compulsory accreditation at specific levels of the game.

Accreditation gained can never be withdrawn. A License need not be renewed if a reasonable and proper criteria has not been met or adhered to.

It is envisaged that the ACC Updating Procedures would provide compatibility and that Licenses would be current only for a period of our years at a time.

ACTION TAKEN

- Established procedures of SA Scheme on record
- Matter approved by SDOC's

ACTION TO BE TAKEN

- Seek material on overseas Schemes
 - Drafting to be undertaken once Updating procedures approved by ACC
 - Principle to be adopted by ASF
- TIME FRAME**

- Introduction 1993

The controversial area is "that licenses, would be current for a period of four years at a time".

After that time coaches must prove they have been "active" otherwise they must "update by doing certain courses".

While, in the long



RAUL BLANCO

run, the proposal has obvious benefits, the interim period is fraught with "controversy" with the likes of older, experienced NSL coaches like Rale Rasic, Manfred Schaefer, Ferenc Puskas, Zoran Matic, Frank Arok and Raul Blanco.

Should, for example, a Rale Rasic be "inactive" for four years he would have to do "certain courses" at the AIS to "update" him on coaching and management to have his licence renewed.

Which is all very fine in advanced football nations.

But who is going to update the likes of Rasic at the AIS?

Speaking of updating and the NSL, back in the early, hectic days of the national competition, the league had many fine ideas — most of which we are now trying to re-establish.

In that inaugural year a national seminar was held for administrators, coaches, referees, presidents etc to exchange ideas, plan and come up with ideas of how to develop our game.

At the coaches' seminar, one of the requests from the NSL coaches was for an annual visit from "an internationally recognised coach" to lecture coaches on the latest physical, tactical, technical and medical developments.

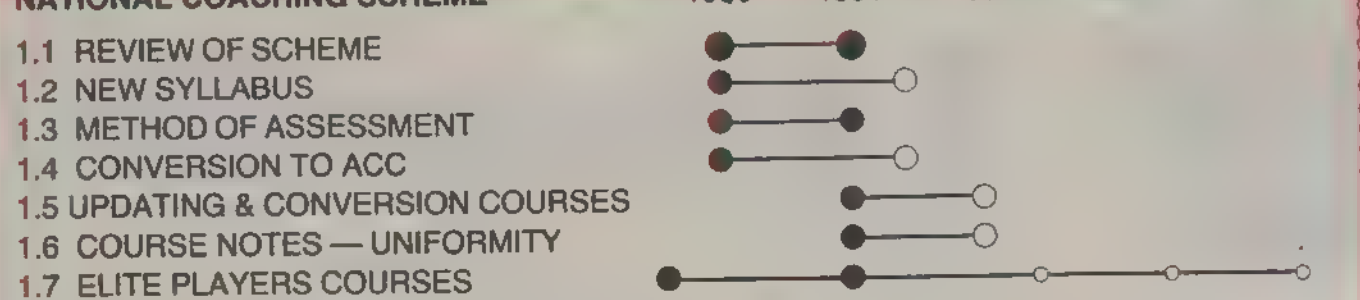
There was a promotional angle to be pursued as well with the "international coaches" visit making it a splendid idea all round.

Like many ideas in



The maestro at work: Rale Rasic.

NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME



NATIONAL LICENSE SCHEME — COACHES

MINIMUM ACCREDITATION LEVELS

TALENT IDENTIFICATION



NATIONAL TEAMS

MASTER COACHING PROGRAMME

Key to above

- COMMENCED & or COMPLETED
- TO BE COMPLETED

It's enough to make them leave home!

ONE of the most intriguing aspects to emerge from the first three rounds of the new season has been the poor start made by the star studded Marconi Fairfield in losing its first two matches, then barely salvaging a draw with Sydney Olympic — but those results should perhaps not be as surprising as they may appear.

After all, a defeat at the hands of an in form Melbourne Croatia in their own back yard is no major catastrophe, while sharing the spoils with the exciting, new look Olympic after having Ian Gray harshly sent off was a creditable enough performance.

That shock defeat at Bossley Park against newcomers Brisbane United, however, was certainly one which was never expected by the increasingly frustrated Marconi faithful.

But even then, looking over results obtained at the Marconi Stadium this year, that unexpected loss should not have been all that surprising.

It has been a long, agonising nine months since Marconi last won a competitive game in front of their home fans — a 3-2 victory over Wollongong City on February 3 to be precise.

Worse still, the Fairfield glamor side has only managed to win one other game in 13 home and away attempts since. An appalling record for anyone but especially for a team held in such high esteem.

Incredible as they may be, these are the results posted by Marconi in the last nine months:

St George (H) 2-2 draw, Heidelberg (A) 0-1 loss, Sydney Olympic

(A) 1-1 draw, Parramatta Melita (A) 1-2 loss, Adelaide City (H) 1-3 loss, South Melbourne (H) 2-3 loss, Melbourne Croatia (H) 0-2 loss, Wollongong Macedonia (A) 4-0 win, Parramatta Melita (semi-final) 3-3 draw, won on penalties, Adelaide City (semi-final) 0-1 loss, Melbourne Croatia (A) 1-2 loss, Brisbane United (H) 0-1 loss, Sydney Olympic (A) 1-1 draw.

When that 13 match record is compared to the one of relegated Wollongong Macedonia at the half way stage of last season, Marconi's disastrous run of outs is clearly a sad and sorry one.

That really is nothing short of relegation form as Macedonia found to its enormous cost at the end of the season.

When based on those dreadful results therefore, it's little wonder that Marconi got off to such a poor start in the new campaign.

The signing of a number of new players to replace the ones who have departed from Bossley Park during the off season has yet to produce the desired effect. When this infusion of new blood is analysed, however, it too becomes clear that no instant miracles can be expected.

Although the loss of the highly talented Paul Okon was more than adequately covered by the capture of the equally classy Milan Blagojevic, one simply cancelled out the other.

When Marconi paid a generous \$30,000 for Melita's Gus Cerro it sent out an obvious signal to the experienced Peter Katholos that he was no longer wanted. Indications so far are that Olympic got much the better of the deal. It will certainly be interesting to speculate which of the two Mick Hickman would select

in his team if he had both players available.

Former Soccerroo Robbie Wheatley was sold to Parramatta Melita after six years of loyal service at Bossley Park to make way for the return to Gary van Egmond from Holland. Again, no more than a straight swap which does little to strengthen the side.

Finally, the industrious Andy Harper was recruited from St George to fill the midfield spot left vacant by the transfer listed Mark Jones, hardly the sort of move which promises to make a great deal of difference.

Despite all these comings and goings, one would have to be supremely optimistic to expect that the current squad is going to be that far superior to the one which produced such disappointing results towards the latter part of last season.

Perhaps the problem at Marconi goes far deeper than that which appears on the surface. Maybe the expectations are simply too great for a team which appears to have not yet overcome the heavy loss of Frank Farina, Fred de Jong and Zlatko Nastevski from those championship winning sides of 1988 and 1989.

Vain attempts to replace the irreplaceable can only add unbearable pressure on a side which has never looked quite the same since the departure of that magical trio.

The huge turnover of players at Bossley Park during the last 18 months has done nothing to create any semblance of stability. In a panic-stricken display of unmerciful bloodletting, no less than 13 members from the squad which failed to complete a championship hat-trick in May of last year are now gone.

Marconi has without doubt set a superb



Peter Katholos during his Marconi days.

example of what highly professional administration can achieve even in our part-time set-up, but no one can even expect to have a divine right for success. In soccer, it has an uncanny habit of going in cycles.

No amount of false hopes or exaggerated expectations can carry a team beyond its true capabilities and this is where the root of the problem at Bossley Park may possibly lie.

In both the latter stages of last season and the early part of the current one, Marconi were probably a much better

side than their disastrous results might indicate. The continuous demand from supporters and media alike for them to produce an artificially high level of excellence, however, does nothing more than increase the enormous pressure on a team which is clearly incapable of dominating Australian soccer in the same way that their magnificent predecessors had done in an earlier era.

Another club which has started the new season off on the wrong

foot has been Sydney Croatia. Three defeats from as many matches — two of them at home, have already started the tongues wagging as to how long new coach Mladen Vrankovic can hang on to his job at Edensor Park.

Club president Tony Topic has no doubts, however, that the former Rijeka boss is the right man to handle the crisis. Topic is adamant that no consideration has been given to instigate any major changes so early in the season.

After the 1-0 defeat against sister club Mel-

bourne Croatia, Topic indicated that the tragic events taking place in Yugoslavia have had a significant impact on his team's performances. "A large number of our players have got relatives and friends fighting the war in Croatia," he claimed. "Some of our youngsters are finding it exceedingly difficult to concentrate on football while this human tragedy at home continues to unfold".

An interesting observation, indeed, one which has obviously had the very opposite effect on Melbourne Croatia!

The soccer scene is now very different



language difficulties, but if you get a Bredbury, a Hugo Gimenez, a Washington Gonzalez, the trouble is worthwhile.

You see, money isn't everything.

Players will come here from our stability, quality of life and climate.

Such an environment is worth a great deal of money, especially to senior, married players with children.

Speaking to one of our former players, Zlatko Nastevski, the other day, I asked him if he would be playing for us in State League in the winter season, following his loan stint with Sydney Olympic.

"No, I'm going back to Malaysia," he said.

I said he must like it there.

"No! Just the money," he said.

The interchange of players from country to country is now a reality in modern football.

We need to accept and embrace it more, as Melita has done.

It is the way to bring Australian football closer to world standard.



HUGO GIMENEZ

OH what a change in soccer!

I remember years ago playing at Newcastle United in England in the company of Jackie Milburn.

Milburn was a great striker, played for England and was idolised by the 60,000 people who used to watch him every second week.

He stayed almost 20 years at Newcastle, all his playing career.

He played, lived and died in the town.

His pay at the club, as an international, was about £10 (ten pound sterling). As a young full-timer I was getting £7.

Some years later all the English professional footballers went on strike to liberate the game from the dark ages with its restrictions on earnings.

In recent times from out of the Newcastle

United club, among many others, have come ex-Liverpool and now Everton striker, Peter Beardsley, Marseille's Chris Waddle and Lazio's Paul Gascoigne.

The latter two should become millionaires.

None of them played more than a few short years with their home town club Newcastle.

Home town spectators no longer have the pleasure of supporting their heroes over a long period of time.

Now the stars are here today and gone tomorrow.

Today's supporter has adapted to this situation.

Many of the younger fans, used as they are to the constant change in modern life, probably prefer to see new players coming in to their club every year.

This constant change of players has made the team building work of coaches much more difficult.

He now needs to have player contacts world-wide.

No longer is it enough to find players from within your local region, even throughout Australia.

For the world is the modern player's oyster.

Earlier this year whilst trying to form a new squad for Southern Districts to compete in NSW State League, we were fortunate to bring in a sweeper, Kim Moon from Korea and a stopper, Claudio Canosa from Argentina.

Neither could speak English, but they were the strength of our team.

Claudio took longest to settle and was occasionally inconsistent, but showed class defending, the result of his full-time training with Racing in Argentina.

Kim was sent off in his second game, but went on to show outstanding ability as you would expect from a Korean national 'B' team player.

Claudio (28) now is playing in the National League with West Ade-

laide, while Kim (32) remains with Southern District.

Now, whilst seeking to build another squad for Wollongong Macedonia following its exit from the National League last season, where once I may just have settled on phone calls to Sydney players, now there are also overseas calls.

Australian players are scattered world wide.

Once the thing for our players was to go to England and leave it at that.

Now they also go to Scotland, or head for Greece, Belgium, Finland, even Italy. But they are also finding that Asia is offering full-time football and good money.

Korean football offers more money than that in Hong Kong or Malaysia.

Korea's top players will often drop down a peg as they get older to play in Hong Kong, or Malaysia.

Earnings of up to \$100,000 a season await Greg Brown if he really makes it in Korea.

The ex-Melita striker has to date, impressed the Koreans with his bustling style which is so much different to their own.

For several years now, I have been advocating that our National League clubs bring in good imports to fill the huge gaps made by our players going overseas.

The arrival of Tim Bredbury and his exceptional feats for Sydney Olympic surely show that there are good players to be found.

There are complications; visa problems,



Washington Gonzalez: great success.

SOLICITORS

Our firm specialises in all legal matters involving the soccer code, and including:

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- b) Clubs being cited for bringing the game into disrepute
- c) Appearing before the Tribunals and Committees of the State and National Leagues
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NSW U14 Championships

PICS BY CARLOS PANETTA



Blacktown City the state title winners. Players; M Bohman, S Bramley, K Cooper, P Crawford, H Foxe, D Harding, M Hewitt, A Horton, A Lara, A Maher, G Martin, M Meliak, M Racker, B Sinclair and G Backhouse. Coach Tam Finlayson. Manager Gavin Blackhouse.



Jim Forrester representing the NSWSAF presents Margaret Anderson, the Clarence River Soccer Association Secretary, with a memento for her involvement and help to run the State Titles U/14s that were played at Yamba from the 10th to the 13th of October.



Saint George U/14s, Minor Premiers and Metropolitan Champions 1991. Standing: G Hunter (manager), A McDermott, S Jurd, B Christofides, V Hunter, S Riches, J VrKic, M O'Shea, A Kdouh, D Panetta and K Gibson (coach). Kneeling: K Melia, S Vranjkovic, K Josevski, S Alogdellis, M Kladis, R Gomez, N Byrn and S Ireland.



At the end of the State Titles played at Yamba during the school holidays, Hayden Foxe, the Blacktown City captain, receives the winners' cup from Mr Jim Forrester of the NSWSAF. The Under 14s State Title has been won by: 1987; APIA, 1988, 1989 and 1990 St George and 1991 Blacktown City.



Western Region: The Players; B Barcham, S Cunningham, S Dixon, I Gerard, K Johns, D Langford Smith, S McKeown, D Porter, D Rosevarne, C Sercombe, J Skali, M Smith, G Thomas and S Davis. Coach Garry Porter and Manager Bruce Langford Smith.



In the thick of the action, Andrew McDermott (white shirt) from St George and Hayden Foxe from Blacktown City raise to meet the ball in one St George attack. The last game of the State Titles held at Yamba was won by St George 1-0.

The Action Continues

**ARGENTINA 4
TURKEY 2**

Three Turkish players were sent off and several yellow cards issued in the sensational match between Argentina and Turkey.

And in the 13th minute of extra time, the referee abandoned the game because of lack of security.

Until then, Argentina and Turkey were locked in a 2-2 draw.

The superiority of the Argentina paid dividends in the 21st minute. A Driene cross from the left was headed by McKie to Batten, who, opened the score. At the moment that Batten scored, another ball was on the ground, right in front of the Turkish goal. Technically, the Argentine goal should have been disallowed, but the referee ignored the complaints from Turkey's players.

Argentina went 2-0 up in the 31st.

Ivantanin combined with McKie, and the latter, with a powerful drive, sent the ball into the net.

Five minutes before the end of the first half, Turkish midfielder Genc was sent off.

In the last 45 minutes, surprisingly, the Argentina lost composure and a spirited and determined Turkish side fought hard to level the score.

In the 60th minute, a shot from Tasdemir was handled by Argentina defender Driene inside the box, and Tasdemir scored from the spot for Turkey.

Ten minutes later, Tasdemir beat the Argentine defence and with a powerful drive, netted the equaliser.

The match went to extra time, and after 13

minutes, the referee sent Turkish defenders Can and Mun Kyung off. He then abandoned the match when Turkish supporters threw several objects to the ground.

The Turkish supporters reacted angrily, invaded the pitch and attacked the referee who finally found refuge in the dressing rooms.

After deliberations, the organising committee decided to play the remaining 17 minutes on Sunday behind closed doors.

The remaining minutes played on Sunday, ended with a 4-2 victory in favour of Argentina.

The Argentines, with the whole squad were too strong for the eight Turkish players on the park.

Berry and McKie in the 110th and 117th, respectively, added the winning goals for the South American outfit.

John McKie was man of the match.

Argentina will face Mexico in the second semi final next Saturday while Assyria and Spain meet in the second match of the day.

Results of the 0/35s Quarter Finals

Greece defeated Italy 1-0 and was the first team to qualify for the quarter finals.

Ireland had to work hard to beat TR of N Cyprus 2-1 in the second quarter final.

Chile caused an upset with its 1-0 win over a strong Australian side headed by the likes of Kosmina, Tony Henderson and Roy Cotton.

It the last quarter final, Colombia defeated Uruguay after a penalty shootout.

The match ended in a 1-1 draw after extra time. In the penalty shootout, Colombia beat Uruguay 6-5, with several penalties repeated by referee's decision.

MEXICO, Spain and Assyria assured themselves of places in the Ethnic World Cup semifinals after respective wins over Lebanon, England and Peru.

The last match between Turkey and Argentina was abandoned by the referee because of lack of security during the first half of extra-time.

The remaining 17 minutes, by decision of the organising committee, were played on Sunday behind closed doors.

**MEXICO 2
LEBANON 1**

The 90 minutes finished in a 1-1 draw.

The brilliance of Mexican midfielders Carlos Donoso and Luis Borquez were instrumental in Mexico's final victory.

Mexican striker Calderon put Mexico 1-0 up in the 26th minute after taking a rebound from Lebanese goalkeeper Chedid.

In the second half, the spirited young Lebanese side found the net in the 69th through an excellent header from midfielder Aboudib.

The game went into extra-time, with Mexico pressuring and Lebanon defending with 10 men, after Saab was sent off in the 83rd minute by the referee.

In the 114th, replacement Garcia took a rebound from keeper Chedid and scored the winner for Mexico.

Carlos Donoso was man of the match.

**SPAIN 4
ENGLAND 1**

Four goals from brilliant striker Agustin Villazon paved the way for Spain's victory.

Two goals in the space of five minutes shocked the disappointing English outfit in the opening 45 minutes.

England had territorial control but Spain, in counter-attacks, caused continuous havoc for the English defenders, with Villazon practically unstoppable.

**ASSYRIA 4
PERU 0**

The Assyrians, a well disciplined side, dominated throughout the 90 minutes.

Assyria, through the efforts of Gabriel, Grimaldi and Corapovski, controlled the centre of the park and pressured a shaky Peruvian defence where only goalkeeper Anabalon showed his class and avoided a worse scoreline as Peru never rode to the occasion.

Assyrian defender Gillan opened the scoring in the 34th minute with a penalty and striker Tome added the second goal in the 37th.

Replacement Nelio Borges scored a third and one minute before the end, Tome left a Peruvian defender behind, and with a powerful drive scored number four for Assyria.



ACTION FROM THE ETHNIC CUP

Italy fail in Tasmanian Cup

BY WALTER PLESS

Italy squandered a great opportunity to secure a semi-final berth in the World Cup soccer tournament being played at KGV Soccer Park when it could only draw 2-2 with a depleted Rest of the World.

Franco Previdi and Sav Perri gave Italy a 2-0 lead with only 25 minutes gone, but the team then relaxed and allowed the ten-man Rest of the World outfit back into the game.

Mark Pitt took advantage of an Italian defensive lapse in the 28th minute, following a free-kick, to lob over Frank Mainella and reduce Italy's lead to one goal, while his brother, Craig, equalised three minutes from the end after Tommy Huigsloot had nodded on Matthew Shaw's free-kick.

Previdi had put Italy in front after 8 minutes with a curling free-kick from 20 metres, and he set up the second goal in the 25th minute with an accurate centre from the right that provided Sav Perri with an easy header.

Adam Tassel was Rest of the World's most dangerous attacker and his speed and fire-power worried the Italian defence throughout the match and kept Mainella on his toes.

In the 10th minute, Mainella conceded a corner by blocking a fierce-drive from Tassel, while on the half-hour, Mainella foiled Tassel with his feet after the striker had ghosted past Dominic Fraraccio.

Two minutes later, Tassel out-ran Nick Di Martino but shot wide, while two minutes after the interval he was again unlucky when his low shot struck the base of the right-hand upright and ricocheted across the

empty goalmouth.

Italy had its chances, too, as Sergio Pace set up team-mates with some precision passing over short and long distances, but goalkeeper Glenn Stewart proved a reliable last line of defence for Rest of the World.

Stewart saved well in the 21st minute from Pace, who began and ended a move involving Romeo Frediani, while on the hour, he tipped a long range effort from Frank Perri over the bar.

The draw leaves Italy and Rest of the World level on four points at the top of Group A, one point ahead of the fine Croatia team, which defeated Greece "White" 2-1 in last night's curtain-raiser.

John Moutsatsos turned Sacha Puclin's cross past his own goalkeeper to give Croatia a 1-0 lead at the interval.

Brendan Lakoseljic added a second goal for

Croatia seven minutes after the break when goalkeeper John Papas-tamatis dropped Puclin's cross.

A 66th-minute penalty, awarded for a foul by Robbie Baric on Jim Parolas, was easily converted by Anesti Hisiridis to put Greece within reach of a draw, but Croatia held on to register its first win of the series.

Youngsters Mark Brkic and Tommy Jelovic were in excellent form for Croatia, while the more experienced Baric, together with Paul Furjanic and Stefan Degac, also caught the eye.

Brkic and Jelovic, although small in stature, showed superb ball control, positional sense and passing ability. They were not lacking in courage, either, and rode some fierce tackles as they opened up the opposing defence with some fine dribbling and penetrating runs.

8th Edition Ethnic Soccer World Cup GARSDALE PARK, GRANVILLE

SEMI FINALS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

1.00pm 0/35 Ireland v Chile

2.30pm 0/35 Greece v Colombia



SEMI FINALS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

4.00pm AA Spain v Assyria

6.00pm AA Mexico v Argentina

NOTE: AA (All Age) 0/35 (Over 35's)



Latest overseas results & tables



ITALY

Ascoli 0 Fiorentina 0, Atalanta 0 Cagliari 1, Bari 0 AC Milan 1, Genoa 0 Sampdoria 0, Inter 0 Napoli 0, Juventus 2 Cremonese 0, Parma 0 Torino 0, AS Roma 1 Foggia 1, Verona 0 Lazio 2.

STANDINGS

Milan	12
Juventus	12
Lazio	10
Napoli	10
Torino	10
AS Roma	10
Inter	10
Genoa	9
Foggia	9
Parma	9
Sampdoria	8
Fiorentina	7
Atalanta	7
Cremonese	5
Cagliari	5
Verona	4
Bari	3
Ascoli	2

NEXT ROUND:

Ascoli v Cremonese, Fiorentina v Cagliari, Foggia v Bari, Genoa v Atalanta, Lazio v Juventus, Milan v Roma, Napoli v Sampdoria, Parma v Verona, Torino v Inter.

SPAIN

Sporting Gijon 1 Deportivo Coruna 0, Sevilla 3 Albacete 0, Athletic Bilbao 0 Real Burgos 0, Real Valladolid 2 Real Mallorca 1, Cadiz 2 Espanol 1, Valencia 0 Real Zaragoza 1, Osasuna 1 Real Oviedo 0, Barcelona 1 Atletico Madrid 0.

STANDINGS:

Real Madrid	13
Atl. Madrid	12
Burgos	10
Sporting G.	9
Sevilla	8
Zaragoza	8
O. Pamplona	7
Barcelona	7

PORTUGAL

Benfica 4 Chaves 1, Beira Mar 3 Pacos Ferreira 0, Braga 0 Porto 0, Farense 1 Famalicao 0, Gil Vicente 0 Guimaraes 2, Penafiel 1 Torreense 0, Salgueiros 3 Estoril 0, Uniao Madeira 1 Maritimo 1, Boavista 2 Sporting 1.

STANDINGS

Benfica	13
Boavista	13
Porto	12
Guimaraes	12
Sporting	11
Braga	11



Roberto Mancini is one of the Sampdoria team's big stars.

GERMANY

Borussia Dortmund 0 Stuttgart 0, Bayern Munich 3 Borussia Moenchengladbach 0, Ein-

tracht Frankfurt 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1, Hamburg 1 Duisburg 1, Kaiserslautern 3 Karlsruhe 0, Cologne 5 Werder Bremen 0, Stuttgart Kickers 1 Schalke 1, Nuremberg 3 Watten-

scheid 1, Dynamo Dresden 2 Fortuna Duesseldorf 0, Bochum 3 Hansa Rostock 2.

STANDINGS

Eintracht F.	20
Bayer L.	19
Stuttgart	18
Kaiseral	18
Duisburg	18
Borussia D.	18
Nuremberg	16
Schalke	16
Hamburg	16
Hansa Rostock	15

HOLLAND

Feyenoord Rotterdam 0 FC Groningen 0, Willem II Tilburg 0 PSV Eindhoven 2, FC Utrecht 2 Ajax Amsterdam 1, FC Volendam 2 De Graafschap Doetinchem 1, MVV Maastricht 1 RKC Waalwijk 1, SVV/Dordrecht '90 2 Fortuna Sittard 1, VVV Venlo 3 FC Twente Enschede 4, Roda JC Kerkrade 1 Sparta Rotterdam 1.

STANDINGS

Feyenoord	20
PSV	19
Twente	17
Sparta	17
Roda	15

FRANCE

Le Havre 0 Marseille 2, Monaco 0 Lens 0, Paris St Germain 2 Nimes 0, Rennes 3 Metz 1, Nancy 3 Nantes 1, Lille 1 Caen 2, Montpellier 1 Auxerre 1, Lyon 1 Toulouse 0, Cannes 0 St Etienne 2, Toulon 2 Sochaux 0.

STANDINGS

Marseille	22
Monaco	20
P.-St Germain	19
Metz	17
Caen	17

USSR

Spartak Moscow 1 Torpedo Moscow 2, Dynamo Moscow 0 CSKA 1, Shakhtyor Donetsk 1 Dynamo Kiev 2, Dynamo Minsk 0 Spartak Vladikavkaz 1, Chernomorets Odessa 2 Pakhtakor Tashkent 0.

FINAL STANDINGS

CSKA	43
S. Moscow	39
D. Kiev	35
T. Moscow	34
C. Odessa	34
D. Moscow	29

—CSKA champions—

SCOTLAND

Hibernian completed a remarkable recovery from the brink of extinction this year by winning the Scottish League soccer Cup on Sunday.

The Premier Division side, who almost faced closure due to a financial crisis, beat Dunfermline 2-0 in the final in front of 40,377 fans at Hampden Park.

Hibs, who eliminated holders Rangers in the semifinals, hit the crucial first goal four minutes into the second half when Mickey Weir was brought down in the box and centre back Tommy McIntyre converted the penalty.

Hibs, winners once before in 1972, settled the issue six minutes from the end with a goal by Keith Wright.

REP. IRELAND

Bray Wanderers 0 Cork 0, Derry 0 Dundalk 0, Drogheda 2 Athlone 1, Sligo 5 Galway 1, St Patrick's 3 Bohemians 2, Shelbourne 0 Shamrock 1.

SOUTH AMERICA with Mario Etchart

Players must get back to basics

PUT the thinking caps on, get the brains ticking over and try to guess who said: "I have players here in the first team who have difficulty in controlling or passing a ball."

If the answer was the manager of an English Four Division side, the trainer of the Vanuatu national team or even Graham Taylor, you probably would not be surprised.

But the correct reply might leave you slightly taken aback.

It was Tele Santana, manager of Brazilian champions Sao Paulo.

As Santana claims, and as the Copa America demonstrated all too painfully, Brazilian players are losing their magic.

We all know, of course, that the Brazilian game has been in a bad way for some time — the country's best (and some of their mediocre) players have fled to Europe, the domestic game is bank-

rupt and the local directors have as much idea about organising football as the average polar bear.

But now it is becoming clear that the technique and skill which always have made Brazil's players the envy of the rest of the world are being lost as well.

The supply of "craques", as the star players are called here, has dried up.

And more worrying still, the country's future professionals are being put through training programmes which are bearing more and more resemblance to English style football.

Plenty on the physical/commitment side, very little on the technique side.

Santana, the man who put together the magnificent 1982 World Cup team and the impressive, if not so magnificent, 1986 side, says: "We're not worried about the 'jogo bonito' any more. We're more interested in

committing fouls and in physical preparation. We are forgetting about the skill side.

"The people who work with junior and youth teams have a responsibility to their clubs to win — it's win, win, win. This means that when players get to the senior level, they are full of defects. They have learned plenty about physical condition, combat and running but they have forgotten about the technical side.

"We have stopped doing what the Brazilian knows how to do, which is play football. There is more interest in combat and committing fouls.

"The strength of our game is our technique and we're not making the most of this any more.

"We've fallen away and any opponent today can cause trouble for Brazil — Ecuador and Colombia for example."

The recent Copa America was the perfect example of what Santana is saying.

Brazil finished second but that was not the significant point.

Far more relevant than where Brazil finished was the way they played.

Their performance was based entirely on marking, determination, fighting spirit, committing fouls and falling down in the penalty area.

Santana adds: "In the Copa America, Brazil showed a lot of fighting spirit and enthusiasm.

"But this is not enough in football. It's all right to worry about getting the ball back when the opposition has it but when you have the ball, you have to know what to do with it — and we don't."

The fact that Falcão is no longer in charge does not really matter.

Brazil is simply not producing players as it used to — and even when it does, they have the creative stuffing knocked out of them.

At all levels, the talk is of determination, marking and running.

If Zico and Socrates were playing in Brazil today, they would be expected to mark opponents.

Watch Brazilian soccer today and you will see precious few moments of the genius which was once common.

★★★

Former Brazil soccer captain Neto has been banned for four months for spitting at a referee.

The incident happened during a Palmeiras-Corinthians derby on October 13 after Neto, the Corinthians captain, had been sent off for a vicious tackle on midfielder Cesar Sampaio.

The Sao Paulo soccer federation tribunal banned him for "aggression" and "moral offence".

Neto, who captained Brazil during the opening stages of the South American championship in July before being relegated to the substitutes' bench, originally denied spitting.

He later admitted he had "made a mistake".



SOCRATES

China ready for this World Cup



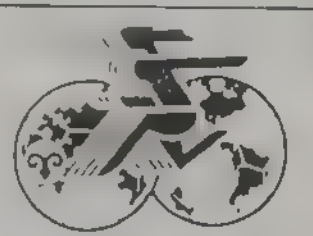
WITH just a few weeks to go before the start of the first Women's World Championship, the six stadia earmarked to stage the matches in the five different venues are shipshape for competition.

Two of them — in Foshan and Zhongshan — have been built from scratch in the space of a few months and fitted out with every basic amenity.

A FIFA delegation, headed by Poul Hylgaard (Denmark), the chairman of the Women's Football Committee, gave a very favourable report after concluding its four-day inspection trip around southern China.

The two-hour show televising the draw live from Guangzhou (Canton) was in keeping with the standards.

The draw came up with two European opponents for China — Norway and Denmark — giving China the promise of stiff opposition.



The groups:

- **Group A:** China PR, Norway, Denmark, New Zealand.
- **Group B:** Japan, Brazil, Sweden, USA.
- **Group C:** Chinese Taipei, Italy, Germany, Nigeria.

The preliminary group games start on November 16.

The quarter-finals will be staged on November 24 and the semi-finals on the 27th.

The final and third place play-offs are both scheduled for Guangzhou on November 29 and 30.



Jurgen Klinsmann wins this aerial duel for Inter Milan. The blonde-haired German striker is having an unsettled season. His club were bundled out in Round 1 of the UEFA Cup and Klinsmann was not selected for his national team when they beat Wales 4-1 in their Euro-92 qualifier.



Careca of Napoli (right) loses out here to Renica of Verona, but Napoli, in the post-Maradona era, are continuing to perform exceptionally well in the tough Italian league.

Disaster sequel

BELGIUM's highest court of appeal has rejected all petitions by senior soccer officials convicted in the 1985 Heysel Stadium tragedy.

It was the third and final hearing relating to the death of 39 people in rioting before the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus at Brussels's Heysel Stadium.

The decision effectively confirms the earlier conviction of Hans Bangerter, former secretary-general of the European Union of Football Associations (UEFA), and of UEFA itself.

Bangerter was cleared of involuntary killing by gross negligence

in the first trial in 1989 but given a three-months suspended sentence on the same charge by a first appeals judge in 1990.

The judge found Bangerter had been negligent in choosing the ageing Heysel Stadium for the European Cup match and said UEFA should compensate the victims of the disaster and their families for material damage and mental suffering.

The highest appeals court also confirmed

the suspended six-month jail sentences of the former secretary-general of the Belgian Soccer Union, Albert Roosens, and a Belgian police captain.

English fans were blamed for starting the riots.

Fourteen of them were convicted of manslaughter in the first trial.

One was cleared, then most others were given more severe penalties by the first appeals court.

INDOOR SITES FOR USA'94

The Pontiac Silverdome near Detroit and New Orleans Superdome remained on track to become sites for the first World Cup games to be played indoors as the 1994 organising committee reduced its list of potential sites to 19.

The list of priority sites, of which eight to twelve will eventually be selected for the tournament, was pared from the 26 communities that submitted bids for the finals that will begin on June 17, 1994.

The priority sites will receive a visit from one or two groups of FIFA officials for inspection from October 29 and November 7.

The final 8-12 sites are expected to be announced around February.

The other communities named were: Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Columbus, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New Haven, East Rutherford, Orlando, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Seattle, Tampa and Washington.

FABULOUS FRENCH RECORD

When France beat Spain in Seville to clinch a berth in the European Championship finals next year it was their 21st match under coach Michel Platini - and their 15th win under the football legend's leadership.

Michel Platini, once a fabulous player himself, took over as France's national team manager in the autumn of 1988.

It did not start well. The first four matches produced two defeats and two goalless draws.

way.

The results since then speak for themselves, and the manager is naturally satisfied.

"I'm not saying we're going to be European Champions.

"What I will say is that this is a team with

began an impressive sequence of unbeaten games.

They beat Sweden 4-2 and since that match Michel Platini's team have played 17 games without being beaten. 15 victories and two draws is an outstanding



record by anybody's standards.

So outstanding in fact, that most pundits have earmarked France as early favourites to add the 1992 European Championship to their 1984 title!

If, and when, France beat Iceland in their final Group 1 qualifier late in November, France - with a maximum 16 points out of 16 - will have set a record.

No European country has ever qualified for a European Championship with a 100% record.

RECORD DROUGHT

EAST Bengal goalkeeper Debasis Mukherjee has played his way into the Guinness Book of Records by going through the Indian season unbeaten.

Mukherjee went 18 League games without conceding a goal - a total of 1,620 minutes - and also went through a knockout tournament unbeaten to set his world record.

Incredibly, though, East Bengal won the Indian League by just three points from Mohun Bagan AC who only conceded one goal during the 18-match season.

DANUT OUT OF PRISON

DANUT LUPU, the former Romanian World Cup star, who played for Panathinaikos before being arrested and charged with leading a gang of burglars and ending up in jail, has been released and is playing for Greek first division newcomers Korinthos.

Lupu faces five years in prison if found guilty at his trial scheduled for January 9.

He said: "Obviously I'm a little out of shape. But everyone here in Korinthos has been so kind to me."

One of the conditions of Lupu's bail is that he does not leave the country.

Egyptian goalie seeks big time

TIME is running out for Ahmed Shoubeir, now approaching 30.

The Egyptian goalkeeper has one more ambition to fulfil - signing for a top European club.

Success in almost all of Africa's national and club competitions, as well as an appearance at the World Cup finals, have marked a brilliant career in the continent, but Shoubeir still feels a void.

"I desperately want to play in Europe, he says.

"I've been to the World Cup finals and I've won a lot of medals in Africa, but more than anything I want to sign for a top side."

Last year, Shoubeir went close when Everton took the player to Goodison after the World Cup finals, but then had to let him go when the British Home Office refused to issue a work permit.

Confident

He feels he was a victim of bureaucratic racism, but he has not given up hope, and is looking forward to a confident showing at the African Nations Cup finals in Senegal in January.

"Senegal is my last chance. I don't think I'll have another after this," he says.

The finals will be a major shop window for African players seeking a professional contract.

Clubs and agents are expected in droves, and there will be TV coverage in Europe.

So what has Shoubeir to offer a club in Europe?

"I have more experience now and more confidence after the World Cup finals in Italy. Goalkeepers have a longer career than outfield players, so I'm fast approaching my peak. I



Ahmed Shoubeir (middle, second row) with his Italia '90 team-mates.

learnt a lot in Italy."

Shoubeir rates Ireland's Tony Cascarino as the most difficult player he has competed against.

"And Marco van Basten, because you always have to be on your guard against him. He can score at any moment."

Playing against forwards of that calibre gave Shoubeir insight into the sharper edge still lacking from the African game.

Careers

But he probably is exposed to more pressure than most.

His club, Al Ahly, are the most popular in the Arab-speaking world, and a walkabout in his home town of Cairo is a nightmare experience for him.

Only in the last two years have Egyptian players left their country to pursue professional careers abroad.

Magdi Abdel Ghani led the way with a move to Beira Mar in Portugal and was quickly followed by World Cup stars Hossam and Ibrahim Hassan and Hani Ramzy.

Shoubeir is desperate to swell those ranks.

A solid performance in Senegal might provide him with the ticket.

— reprinted courtesy WORLD SOCCER

EURO 92 on TV

The 1992 European Championship finals in Sweden will, according to reliable forecasts, be watched by some 3.9 billion TV viewers in 120 countries.

This makes Euro-92 one of the biggest TV events in sporting history: bigger than the recent World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, for instance.

This also means that the finals will receive the most attention ever given to a sporting event in Sweden. Swedish Television will also be committing itself to its single biggest undertaking ever.

The Championship finals in France in 1984 were watched by 1.65 billion TV viewers in 100 countries. When the finals moved to West Germany four years later the figure had almost doubled - 3.036 billion viewers followed the Championship on their TV sets.

TV-wise, the largest sporting event-ever was the World Cup in Italy in 1990, when the 52 matches were watched by over 26 billion viewers from 167 countries.



Barcelona's Michael Laudrup. Not a regular this season, the Danish ace is reconsidering his decision not to play for his national team and may rejoin the side for its final Euro-92 qualifier against Northern Ireland next month.

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER

► New Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said he intended to use only home-based players for his first match in charge, a friendly at home to Yugoslavia on October 30.

Parreira said that in future matches, Brazil would also rely mainly upon locally-based players.

Most of Brazil's top players are based with European clubs who often refuse to release them for friendlies.

► Argentinian Jose Horacio Basualdo has been released by his German club, VfB Stuttgart. He has joined Racing Avellaneda in Buenos Aires.

► Ukrainian midfielder Alexander Zavarov is back with Nancy in the French First Division. The Soviet international was not keen to play there for another season but Juventus, who still own him, received no offers for his services.

► The oil-rich Persian Gulf country of Abu Dhabi is keen to host a challenge match between European Champions Holland and South American kings Argentina some time early in January. Both countries have been offered a cool \$300,000 each to play.

► Swedish striker Hans Eklund is playing football again after a year's enforced absence.

Enforced not by broken leg, strained ligament or damaged cartilage, but by a contractual dispute with his erstwhile employers, Portugal's Sporting Lisbon.

After a special ruling by FIFA Eklund, 25, is now kicking a ball in earnest again - and back in Portugal, with Boavista.

► Kaiserslautern captain Stefan Kuntz is out of action for a month after tearing ligaments in his right knee.

► Because of the problems besetting the unsettled country, the start of the Albanian competition has been postponed. To keep the clubs occupied, a 48-team cup series is now under way.

► Hamrun Spartans beat Valletta 1-0 in the final of the Maltese Super Cup.

► At its next Congress in Vancouver on May 2 and 3 1992, the Confederation for North and Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF) will deliberate on a change of name. Chuck Blazer, CONCACAF's General Secretary, has called upon all member associations to think up suggestions for a new appellation. It is hoped that the new name will depict the confederation in a simpler and slicker way.

► Former Belgian international Michel Renguin has replaced countryman Jan Thyssen as coach of Servette Geneva of Switzerland.

► Mouloudia Olympique have won the 29th Algerian First Division title. They finished two points ahead of AS M'ila and ASM Oran. Mouloudia hail from the inland city of Constantine.

► Atletico Madrid's flamboyant chairman Jesus Gil has been fined \$A38,000 by Spain's Sporting Disciplinary Committee today for telling a referee he needed psychiatric treatment.

Referee Juan Brito sent off four Atletico players in a friendly last August between GIL's side and Newell's Old Boys of Argentina. Atletico lost 4-1.

► Algeria beat Iran 1-0 in Algiers to clinch the Afro-Asian Cup. Ali Benhalima scored the winning goal in the 79th minute. Iran won the first leg in Tehran 2-1 but Algeria took the title on the away goals rule.

► The coach of the Austrian national team, Alfred Riedl, resigned after his team's 3-0 defeat by Denmark in the European Championship qualifiers.

► Paraguayan ace Romerito, who has played with the now-defunct New York Cosmos, in Argentina and in Spain, has been transferred from Sportivo Luqueno, a modest club, to giants of Paraguayan football, Olimpia Asuncion. Romerito is 32 years old.

► Veteran French striker Didier Six, 37, is playing in what was formerly East Germany. Six, who won the 1984 European Championship with France, is now turning out for Second Division VfB Leipzig.

► Sparta Prague coach Dusan Uhrin has been voted Czechoslovakian Coach of the Year for 1991. Uhrin coached Chel before joining Sparta last season.

Meszoly sacked!

Hungarian national football coach Kalman Meszoly has resigned.

He quit two days after his team drew 2-2 against the Soviet Union and their chances of reaching next year's European Championships finals disappeared.

The Hungarian Federation said Meszoly would be replaced by his assistant Robert Glazer.

Though the 2-2 result in Moscow against the qualifying group three leaders was a creditable one, Hungary are out of the running for the finals in Sweden. Meszoly went to Saudi Arabia.

EURO-CUP SHOCKS!

BY LOU GAUTIER

ENGLISH clubs had a bad night in second round ties of European club competitions, winning just one of four matches last Wednesday.

League leaders Manchester United saw their dream of becoming the first side ever to retain the European Cup Winners' Cup turn into a nightmare against Spanish opponents Atletico Madrid.

United conceded two goals in the last three minutes to lose 3-0, while the legendary Liverpool lost away, this time 2-0 to French club Auxerre, who should have scored more.

League champions Arsenal grabbed a 1-1 away draw with Benfica of Portugal, while England captain Gary Lineker scored a double to enable Tottenham

to beat FC Porto 3-1 at White Hart Lane.

And last year's Champions' Cup winners, Red Star, had to struggle to beat the minnows from Cyprus, Apollon, 3-1 in neutral Szeged, Hungary.

Their victims last season in the final, Marseille, are in serious danger of elimination following a narrow 3-2 home win against Sparta Prague.

qualify in the return match on November 6 at Genoa.

Barcelona's 2-0 win at the Nou Camp against Kaiserslautern should also be enough but PSV's chances are slim after being held scoreless at Eindhoven by neighbours Anderlecht of Belgium.

An interesting feature of Roma's 1-1 draw against unfancied Ilves at Tampere, Finland, in the Cup-Winners' Cup, was that the Italians' goal was scored by Andrea Carnevale, just back after serving a one-year suspension for drug abuse.

Brondby, of Denmark, a surprise semi-finalist in last season's UEFA Cup, did very well again to hold Dynamo Kiev to a draw in Ukraine as did AEK of Greece to force another Soviet side, Spartak, to a scoreless draw in Moscow.

It was a bad round for Soviet teams, with Torpedo Moscow losing 2-0 in Czechoslovakia to Olomouc, but Dynamo Moscow had an away win on the French Rivi-

play which belied a 1-1 half-time scoreline.

Egyptian World Cup striker Hossam Hassan scored four goals as Swiss side Neuchatel Xamax thrashed former European champions Glasgow Celtic 5-1, also in the UEFA Cup.

Both sides were under strength but the disappointing Scots had no answer to Neuchatel's all-out attack and were completely out-classed.

Last week's Round 2 first leg results:

CHAMPIONS' CUP: Kijpest Honved 2 (Pisont Cservenki) Sampdoria 1 (Cerezo), Marseille 3 (Papin 2, Waddle) Sparta Prague 2 (Vrabec, Kukleta), Barcelona 2 (Beguiristain 2) Kaiserslautern 0, Panathinaikos 2 (Saravakos, Marangos) IFK Goteborg 0, Red Star Belgrade 3 (Pancev, Lukic, Savicevic) Apollon Limassol 1 (Ptak), Dynamo Kiev 1 (Salenko) Brondby 1 (Nielsen), PSV 0 Anderlecht 0, Benfica 1 (Soares) Arsenal 1 (Campbell).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP: Norrkoping 1 (Hellstrom) Monaco 2 (Mendy, Weah), Atletico Madrid 3 (Futre 2, Manolo Sanchez) Manchester United 0, Werder Bremen 3 (Neubarth 2, Allofs) Ferencvaros 2 (Lipcsei 2), Tottenham 3 (Lineker 2, Durie) Porto 1 (Kostadinov), Sion 0 Feyenoord 0, Ilves 1 (Czakon) AS Roma 1 (Carnevale), Galatasaray 0 Banik Ostrava 1 (Ollender), GKS Katowice 0 FC Brugge 1 (Staelens).

UEFA CUP: BK 1903 Copenhagen 6 (Manniche 2, Nielsen, Wegner, Kaus, Uldbjerg) Bayern Munich 2 (Mazinho, Munch), Ghent 0 Eintracht Frankfurt 0, Neuchatel Xamax 5 (Hassan 4, Bonvin) Celtic Glasgow 1 (O'Neil), Cannes 0 Dynamo Moscow 1 (Kiriakov), Osasuna 0 VfB Stuttgart 0, Hamburger SV 2 CSKA Sofia 0, Genoa 3 (Aguilera 2, Branco) Dinamo Bucharest 1 (Signorini own goal), Lyon 3 (Bouderbala, Bursac, Leal) Trabzonspor 4 (Hami 2, Sehmuz, Orhan), Rot Weiss Erfurt 1 (Schulz) Ajax Amsterdam 2 (Jonk, Bergkamp), Spartak Moscow 0 AEK Athens 0, FC Utrecht 1 (Smolarek) Real Madrid 3 (Prosinecki, Roest o.g., Villaroya), Olomouc 2 (Sindelar, Marosi) Torpedo Moscow 0, Auxerre 2 (Ferreri, Kovacs) Liverpool 0, Gijon 2 (Luhov, Stan o.g.) Steaua Bucharest 2 (Popa, Dimitrescu), Torino 2 (Lentini, Annoni) Boavista 0.



Gerald Passi celebrates Monaco's win in last season's French Cup. His side should make it to the quarter-finals of the Cup-Winners' Cup.

Goals by Chris Waddle and Jean-Pierre Papin (2) gave them a 3-0 lead, but two controversial penalties to the Czechs reduced the lead-way and now a 1-0 or 2-1 win in Prague will see Sparta through.

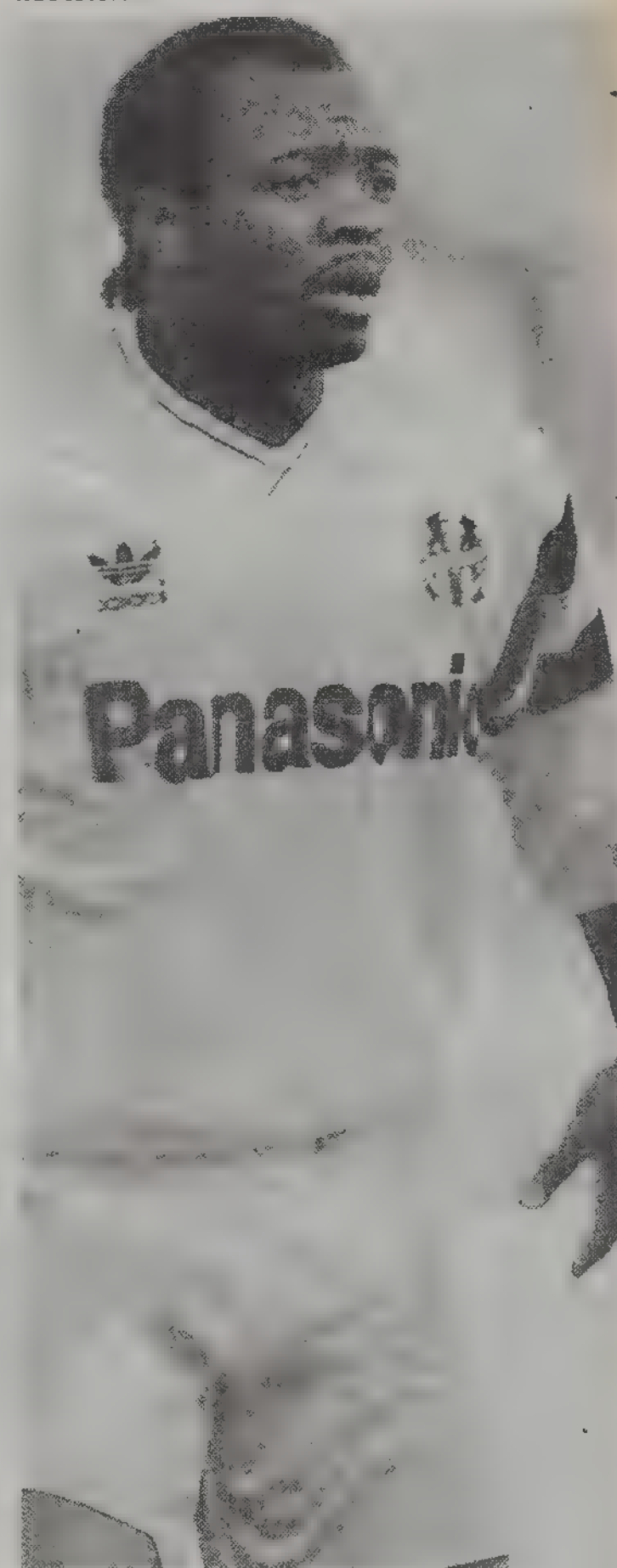
Sampdoria of Italy, lost in Hungary to Kijpest (ex-Honved) in the Champions' Cup, but Brazilian Cerezo's away goal in the 2-1 loss should see Sampdoria

era in the UEFA Cup. Mighty Bayern Munich crashed to one of the most humiliating defeats in their history when they were hammered 6-2 by BK 1903 Copenhagen in the UEFA Cup.

The Danes, who knocked out Scottish opponents Aberdeen 3-0 on aggregate in the first round, shocked Bayern with a tremendous second-half dis-

Foreign coaches still the rage in Africa

MAJOR African tournaments, notably the Nations' Cup, focus on the growing band of foreign coaches who ply their trade on the continent where rewards are high but failure is not tolerated.



ABEDI PELE

A number of national teams in the continent, including those who are going to feature in the 1992 Cup finals in Senegal, have coaches or managers from either Europe or Latin America.

Examples include Kenya, who have qualified for the third time in a row.

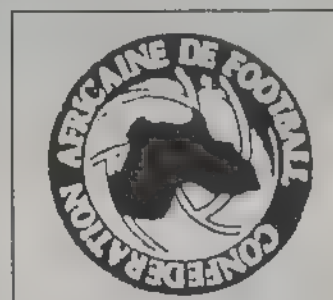
Harambee Stars, the national team, are coached by Gerry Saurer, an Austrian better known as previous general manager of a leading Nairobi hotel.

Frenchman Philippe Redon handles World Cup stars Cameroun.

He took over from Soviet coach Valery Nepomniachi, mastermind of the Indomitable Lions' 1990 World Cup campaign.

Ghana, proving a force again after six years in the doldrums, are now coached by a German, Burkhard Ziese, a bespectacled man in his forties, who took up the job last year.

Ghana, Nations' champions a record four times, slipped from their lofty position during the finals of three consecutive tournaments, but have made it to Dakar for the 1991 finals.



Congo the Red Devils, are coached by yet another German, Manfred Honer, the disciplinarian who took Nigeria to the 1988 finals.

Opinion varies as to whether or not there is need for foreign coaches in Africa.

Abedi Pele of Ghana, who stars for Olympique Marseille, France's top team, believes Africa needs foreigners to instil the necessary mental approach.

Abedi Pele recently said in an interview: "Our local coaches cannot bring out inherent talent — they only know about getting to the ground. I have nothing against African coaches, but they have a lot to learn."

The Nigerian Minister for Sports, Mohammed Kure, has accused foreign coaches of not being interested in the nations that hire them.

"Their only loyalty is to their purses," he said.



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

SUNDAY REVOLT

Premier plan gets big 'No'

The FA's Premier League faces its first revolt before it has got off the ground.

Arsenal bigwig David Dein, one of the Premier's chief fans, is talking about switching Britain's traditional Saturday fare to Sundays.

But soccer stars are already saying "Never on Sunday" to the new set-up.

FAMILY

If Dein and his mates took notice of public opinion, there would be no so-called Premier League.

Yet, no matter what the fans say about a Sunday switch, the Pre-

mier faces major problems if they try to push it on the players.

Players' union chief Gordon Taylor says "More and more players are coming to us saying they don't want that switch."

"The players have less and less time with their families as it is and they believe such a move would affect family life."

Under the proposed Premier set-up matches could be spread through from Friday to Monday so that TV demands can be met.

JOHN FASHANU, Wimbledon's £1m-rated striker, could be the next big-name target for Blackburn boss Kenny Dalglish.

It would have to be a special deal to tempt big Fash into the Second Division.

But he had a good relationship with former Dons chief Ray Harford, now Dalglish's No.2, and he may

be on a collision course with new disciplinarian boss Peter Withe.

HARD-UP Luton boss David Pleat will this week give Swedish World Cup defender Niklas Nylén, 25, a trial at Kenilworth Road.

TRIAL

And, if it's successful, Pleat hopes to take the Malmö full-back on loan for the rest of the season.

Pleat is also set to splash out £200,000 on Dundee United's out-of-favour defender Miodrag Krivokapic.

The Slav has impressed Pleat during a fortnight's trial at Kenilworth Road.

And Pleat could make it a transfer hat-trick after joining Sheffield United in the chase for Notts County's Paul Harding.

FRANK SIGNS

★ FRANK STAPLETON, the former Arsenal, Manchester United and Republic of Ireland striker, has joined Third Division Huddersfield as player-coach.

Stapleton, 35, who was released by Blackburn Rovers, at the end of last season, has signed monthly terms.

Huddersfield boss Eoin Hand said: "Frank will give us the experience we need. He's got all the know-how in the world, and it's great for the club that he is so keen to come here."

"There isn't a better pro in the game than Frank and I'm sure his skills will rub off on the players."

Stapleton could make his Huddersfield debut in Tuesday's Rumbelows Cup game against Swindon.

LUTON WANT MIO

Struggling Luton are set to move for Dundee United's out-of-favour defender Miodrag Krivokapic.

The Slav has spent two weeks on trial at Kenilworth Road and David Pleat is ready to move in to halt a slump which has taken them to second-bottom spot in Division One.

United wanted £600,000 for the defender, but would settle for a third of that if he moved south — and Luton have cash to spend after the twin sale of Matthew Jackson and Dave Beaumont for £610,000.

Meanwhile, team-

mate Michael O'Neill last week begged for a quick move — to help resurrect his international career with Northern Ireland.

The 22-year-old striker has been out of favour with boss Jim McLean. But although he has started only six games this season, O'Neill is United's joint leading scorer with five goals.

And he says: "Up to getting injured a year ago, I had played 12 games in a row for Northern Ireland."

"But since I have not been able to get back into my club side, Billy Bingham has left me out as well."

"I just can't wait to get away."

YOU GOTTA LOT-SPURS!

Hard man Roberts pictures his old pals in the final

GRAHAM ROBERTS, the last player to lift a European trophy for Spurs, has no doubt at all. His old club can go all the way in this season's Cup-Winners' Cup.

Hard man Roberts — captain of the side who won the UEFA Cup back in 1984 — watched on TV in midweek as Spurs built up a 3-1 home lead over Porto.

"I'm sure that will be enough to see them through the return in Portugal," says the former England defender.

FRIGHTEN

"Arsenal proved against Benfica in Lisbon that if the attitude is right you can always score an away goal. And Spurs have a tradition as an attacking side."

"If Spurs get past this stage they don't have to play again until the quarter-finals in March. And I can't see any other team left in the competition who can really frighten them."

"I believe they may prove to be the best bet of the four English clubs left in Europe."

"The only side I'd like to see them avoid, at least until the Final next May, are Atletico Madrid, who look certain to beat Manchester United after building up a 3-0 lead in the first leg."

"Mind you, if it comes to the crunch I'd still fancy Spurs against Atletico."

One has to agree on that score. . . . If only for sentimental reasons. Spurs beat Atletico 5-1 in the final of the same competition in Rotterdam in



GARY LINEKER

1963 to become the first British club to win a European trophy.

"I've still got happy memories of beating Anderlecht of Belgium in the UEFA Cup Final of seven years ago, even if we won in a penalty shootout," recalls Roberts.

"And I've photos on my bedroom wall of me collecting the trophy, because skipper Steve Perryman was suspended."

"They are alongside other photos of the day I picked up the Skol Cup for Rangers during my spell in Scotland when captain Terry Butcher was banned. I've always been a lucky stand-in."

"When I was at White Hart Lane we were at our best in away matches, and I don't think times have changed."

"Especially when Spurs have a matchwinner like Gary Lineker who can turn any game in your favour."

"All I know is that, if they reach another European final this season as I believe they will, Spurs don't forget to invite me."

Only current skipper Gary Mabbutt and Paul Allen remain of Roberts' Tottenham team-mates. "I'd love to see Gary leading the Spurs lads on a lap of honour," says Graham.

Now 33, and after service with Rangers and Chelsea, Roberts is with Third Division pace-makers West Bromwich, striving to recover from a knee injury which has kept him sidelined all season.

HIGHEST

"I'm due to make my comeback in a reserve game against Villa next weekend, and in a couple of weeks I should be fully fit," he says.

"Then I hope to be on the move. I'm on the transfer list and I don't think West Brom will ask much of a fee for me — boss Bobby Gould has been very understanding."

"I can assure any interested manager that I've lost none of my desire to be successful."

"I still believe I can play at the highest level, but I'm ready to join a club in one of the lower divisions if they want me as a player-coach."

"I've learned a lot under managers like Keith Burkinshaw, Peter Shreeves, Bobby Campbell and Graeme Souness."

"They all taught me something in their different ways. I know I can do a good job for any club prepared to give me a chance."

Roberts has been a winner all through his career — and he's got the pictures on his bedroom wall to prove it.

HARRISON TEST FOR TAYLOR

ENGLAND coach Steve Harrison's international future hung in the balance on the weekend.

■ The FA could feel obliged to investigate the unsavoury incident that led Millwall to sack him on the spot.

Palace boss Steve Coppell has stepped in to rescue Harrison with a job at club level.

■ And both Harrison and his England boss and friend Graham Taylor must be praying that is the end of the matter.

Any FA inquiry would confront manager Taylor with a personal crisis.

■ Taylor employed Harrison at both Watford and Aston Villa and elevated him into the England ranks.

Taylor has built a reputation for strongly resisting external pressures on the way he does his job.

■ He is also known to be intensely loyal, but the Harrison affair may test both qualities to the full.

It's the last thing Taylor requires as he tries to restore England's confidence before the crucial European Championship qualifying decider in Poland next month.

SUPER SOCCER LEADERS ALL YEAR ROUND

BABY TALK!

JOHN BURRIDGE is the man Dunfermline had to beat to grab Skol Cup glory in Scotland.

And Hibs star Budgie — 40 in December — is living proof that you have to be crazy to be a keeper:

■ **Burridge gobbles up BABY FOOD** to keep him fit.

■ **Anyone who takes the mickey** out of him on the training pitch risks more than they bargained for!

But there's method in the Geordie keeper's madness.

He's now in his 24th season with his 13th club — and could be playing in Europe for the first time if Hibs win the Skol Cup — and claims that he's fitter and a better goalkeeper now than he was 10 years ago.

When Burridge made his Football League debut for his home town club Workington in 1988, the transfer record was the £100,000 Allan Clarke cost Leicester from Fulham.

Toddler food keeps Budgie flying high

In fact, Budgie was playing before his Easter Road team-mates Willie Miller and Mark McGraw were born.

Routines

Burridge follows a strict diet revolving around pasta — without sauce — and beans for fibre the day before matches and grapes and baby food on the day of a game.

He's a tee-totaller, who heads straight home after games so he can replay the match in his head and is in bed by 9.30 every night.

His match-day routines — handstands in the centre-circle after his warm-up and a lap of honour after the final whistle — have made Hibs fans forget all about departed Scotland man Andy Goram.

But Mark McGhee and Simon Stainrod, both ex team-mates of Burridge's, agree that he has an attitude which is ultra dedicated as well as unusual.

McGhee, now player manager at Reading and a team-mate of Burridge's at Newcastle, says: "Budgie's an exhibitionist, pure and simple."

"I've seen him eating jars of baby food before games because he believes it increases his carbohydrate level."

"But I'll tell you this, he works harder than anyone I've ever seen in football and has more belief in himself than anyone I've ever met in football."

"Budgie probably believes he'll play till he's 50 because he's so fit."

"He used to describe himself with the words, 'I'm as fit as a butcher's dog' — and he is."

"He can run all day, lift weights till other players wilt and is as good a reflex goalkeeper as I've ever seen."

"The fact he's like that on the verge of 40 is because he has worked hard on getting back to his feet after making saves."

"It has paid off, because I saw one save he had in the Skol Cup semi-final against Rangers this season when he dived full-length — than was back on his toes to stop the rebound."

Accident

"He's a shrewd guy too, who has a thriving sportswear business in



JOHN BURRIDGE — a shrewd customer

the north-east of England, but basically he's a private person.

"Practically the only thing I ever heard him talking about — other than football was his family. He loved to tell stories about what his son Tommy had been up to."

Burridge grew up in the tough mining community of Workington and the hardships he endured developed into a gritty determination and physical hardness.

Falkirk striker Simon Stainrod was at QPR with him. They were best mates, and Budgie spent a month at Brockville earlier in the season on Stainrod's recommendation.

But Burridge's nonsense approach once put his pal in hospital — with a broken leg.

Simon says: "When Budgie played in goal in training matches, woe

betide anyone who tried to chip the ball over him and missed."

"However, he used to play out on the field a lot in training and once put me out of action for eleven weeks."

"I was shielding the ball from him and taking the mickey a bit. He got fed up and went in hard for the ball. I came off worse and ended up with a fractured fibula."

"Despite that, we stayed best of mates and our families still keep in touch."

"He's the most football-orientated person I've ever met. At Loftus Road he went back for extra training every afternoon — which helped the players who stayed on to fire shots at him."

"I admire him as much as I like him. He's one of the few people in the game who realise football's about entertainment."

Hibs boss Alex Mil-

ler admits: "John came to our notice only because he was up here playing with Falkirk."

"We'd initially decided to start the season with our youngsters, but after the pre-season games we felt they weren't ready for the responsibility and invited John to train."

Tremendous

"He loved it and we'd no trouble signing him for a year."

"Not only has he been a good signing for his form, but it's tremendous for our kids to see such a dedicated pro at work."

We contacted John Burridge regarding this article, but he politely declined to be interviewed for it.

Sunday was Burridge's finest moment in a remarkable career spanning 24 years and if anyone deserves a winner's medal, it's him.

Vale and farewell

A LESSER man than John Rudge would be better at the way Port Vale's fans have deserted the club.

For the first time in 99 years, Vale are a League division higher than local rivals Stoke.

For the first time, they are in the third-round of the Rumbelows Cup — facing a glamour trip to Liverpool on Tuesday. All this, on a current average League gate of barely 6,800 — almost 2,500 down on their first season back in the Second Division three years ago.

Rudge backs 'lost' fans

Yet amazingly, manager Rudge says: "I don't blame the fans."

He explains: "The popular end of our ground, the Byoars End, used to look like something off those old Pathe newsreels — thousands of people in cloth cape standing in wide open terraces, soaked by the rain. But those days are gone."

"People's expectations are a lot higher now. That's why we've spent £1m putting a roof on the Byoars End

and modernising it. A lot of our fans say they'll be back when we finish the work. Well, it will be finished inside a fortnight!"

Meanwhile, every fan Vale can muster at the moment is heading for Anfield. The club have sold 7,000 tickets for today's game.

Rudge fully understands the lure of cup football. As a Third Division striker 19 years ago, he scored two of the goals with which Bristol Rovers dumped Manchester United out of the League Cup, as it was then.

VITAL

Within the past four years, Rudge and his henchman at Vale, Mickey Pajic, have masterminded the FA Cup conquest of Spurs and a Derby team that included Peter Shilton, Mark Wright and Dean Saunders.

"On Tuesday," he says, "the Potteries will emigrate to Liverpool for the night. Liverpool knocked out Stoke in the last round, and our fans want to see if we can go one better!"

Whether Vale do or not will probably depend on the length of an injury list that includes striker Keith Houchen and midfield mainstay Ray Walker. Both have scored vital FA Cup goals against Spurs — Walker for Vale and Houchen for Coventry in the 1987 final at Wembley.

Says Rudge: "Unfortunately both of them are likely to miss Tuesday's match. So are two or three others among our first-team regulars."

"So don't give me hard times about Liverpool's injury problems. We've got our own troubles."

FACTFILE

NAME: JOHN BURRIDGE	BORN: 3-12-51	CLUBS: 11
CLUB	YEARS	HONOURS
WORKINGTON	1968-70	27
BLACKPOOL	1970-75	134
A VILLA	1975-77	65
SOUTHEND	1977 (loan)	8
C PALACE	1977-80	88
QPR	1980-82	38
WOLVES	1982-84	74
DERBY	1984 (loan)	6
SHEFF UTD	1984-87	109
SOUTHAMPTON	1987-89	82
NEWCASTLE	1989-91	67
FALKIRK	1991	1
HIBERNIAN	1991	17

☆ John played in goal for Aston Villa in 1977 when they beat Everton 3-2 in the League Cup final after two drawn games — 0-0 at Wembley 3-1 at Hillsborough.

☆ He has an Anglo-Italian Cup winners medal from Blackpool in 1971. They beat Bologna 2-1 in Italy, June 1971.

☆ And he's also the proud possessor of an English Second Division winners' medal with Crystal Palace in the 1978-79 season.

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

ON SALE
CITY:
TUESDAY
COUNTRY:
WEDNESDAY

ABSW BEST FOR SOCCER ACTION

This week's fixture list

**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 29**

Second Division

Blackburn v Wolves
Charlton v Ipswich
Grimsby v Derby
Plymouth v Cambridge U
Southend v Oxford
Sunderland v Tranmere
Swindon v Bristol C
Watford v Millwall
Scottish Premier
Airdrie v Dunfermline
Dundee Utd v Rangers
Scottish First
Ayr Utd v Dundee
Clydebank v Forfar
Montrose v Kilmarnock
Morton v Meadowbank
Raith v Partick

**WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 30**

Second Division

Brighton v Leicester
Bristol R v Portsmouth
Scottish Premier
Aberdeen v Motherwell
Celtic v St Johnstone
Falkirk v Hibernian
Hearts v St Mirren
Scottish First
Hamilton v Stirling A

**FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 1**

Third Division

Bournemouth v Stockport
Wigan v Swansea

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 2**

First Division

Arsenal v West Ham
Coventry v Chelsea
Liverpool v Palace
Luton v Everton
Man United v Sheff Utd
Norwich v Forest
Notts Co v Oldham
QPR v Aston Villa
Sheff Wed v Tottenham
Southampton v Man City
Wimbledon v Leeds
Second Division
Blackburn v Brighton
Bristol R v Port Vale
Cambridge U v Bristol C
Derby v Tranmere
Grimsby v Charlton
Leicester v Ipswich
Middlesbrough v Southend
Millwall v Portsmouth
Oxford v Barnsley
Plymouth v Wolves
Sunderland v Watford
Swindon v Newcastle



PETER BEARDSLEY

Third Division

Birmingham v Torquay
Bolton v Reading
Bradford C v Brentford
Chester v Preston
Darlington v Hartlepool
Fulham v Hull City
Leyton O v Exeter
Shrewsbury v Peterboro
Stoke v Huddersfield
West Brom v Bury
Fourth Division
Blackpool v Scarborough
Cardiff v Scunthorpe
Carlisle v Gillingham

Halifax v Burnley
Lincoln v Aldershot
Maidstone v Hereford
Mansfield v Doncaster
Rochdale v Chesterfield
Rotherham v Notherhampton
Wrexham v Barnet
York City v Walsall
Scottish Premier
Aberdeen v Dundee Utd
Airdrie v Falkirk
Hibernian v Hearts
Rangers v Celtic
St Johnstone v Dunfermline
St Mirren v Motherwell

Scottish First

Ayr Utd v Kilmarnock
Clydebank v Morton
Dundee v Raith
Forfar v Montrose
Meadowbank v Stirling A
Partick v Hamilton

Scottish Second

Alloa v Brechin
Arbroath v Albion R
Dumbarton v Q Park
East Fife v Clyde
East Stirling v Stirling
Queen of St v Cowdenbeath
Stenhousemuir v Berwick

ALLY IN DEMAND

ALLY MAXWELL
could clinch a permanent move to Stoke this week — thanks to his dream loan spell at Liverpool.

Graeme Souness's faith in the 26-year-old will prompt Stoke boss Lou Macari to ask his board to take a tribunal chance on Maxie.

Motherwell insisted a clause be inserted in his Anfield deal so he can be recalled if another club make a bid.

Maxwell played his first game since his heroic Scottish Cup Final appearance for Liverpool's A team in their 2-1 win over Oldham on the weekend.

■ SCOTLAND will be entitled to two UEFA Cup places for the next few seasons — despite its clubs' disastrous Euro form.

It was rated se-



LOU MACARI

cond among the group of countries entitled to two UEFA spots but will slump down the list this season.

Because of UEFA's method of awarding places, Scotland will this season lose the points gained five seasons ago — when Dun-

dee United's run took them to the UEFA Cup Final.

Points total for this season is likely to be 2.25 — the lowest in the last six years — but that will still keep Scotland among the lowest band of countries entitled to two spots.

ALL THE RESULTS FROM BRITAIN

BARCLAYS LGE — DIV 1

ARSENAL	2	NOTTS CO	0
HT: 0-0		Air: 30,011	
AVILLA	2	WIMBLEDON	1
HT: 2-0		Air: 16,326	
CPALACE	0	CHELSEA	0
		Air: 21,641	
LEEDS	1	OLDHAM	0
HT: 0-0		Air: 28,199	
LIVERPOOL	1	COVENTRY	0
HT: 1-0		Air: 33,330	
MAN CITY	3	SHEFF UTD	2
HT: 2-2		Air: 25,495	
NORWICH	1	LUTON	0
HT: 1-0		Air: 10,541	
NOTTMSFRST	1	SOTON	3
HT: 0-1		Air: 20,026	
QPR	3	EVERTON	1
HT: 1-0		Air: 10,002	
SHEFF WED	3	MAN UTD	2
HT: 1-2		Air: 38,260	
WEST HAM	2	TOTTENHAM	1
HT: 2-1		Air: 23,946	

DIVISION 2

BLACKBURN	2	GRIMSBY	1
HT: 1-1		Air: 11,096	
BRIGHTON	0	SWINDON	2
HT: 0-1		Air: 7,370	
BRISTOL C	1	NEWCASTLE	1
HT: 0-1		Air: 8,613	
CAMBUITD	2	BARNLEY	1
HT: 0-0		Air: 5,534	
MIDDLESBRO	1	PVLE	0
HT: 1-0		Air: 11,403	
MILLWALL	1	DERBY	2
HT: 1-1		Air: 7,660	
OXFORD	1	LEICESTER	2
HT: 0-1		Air: 5,206	
PLYMOUTH	0	WATFORD	1
HT: 0-1		Air: 4,090	
PORTSMTH	1	IPSWICH	1
HT: 1-1		Air: 6,007	
SOUTHEND	1	CHARLTON	1
HT: 1-0		Air: 2,320	
SUNDERLAND	1	BRISTOL R	1
HT: 1-1		Air: 14,246	

DIVISION 3

BOLTON	1	BRADFORD	3
HT: 0-1		Air: 4,445	
BURY	0	BRENTFORD	3
HT: 0-2		Air: 2,280	
CHESTER	0	BOLTON	1
HT: 0-0		Air: 1,867	
FULHAM	1	PRESTON	0
HT: 1-0		Air: 4,022	
HULL	5	DARLINGTON	2
HT: 1-2		Air: 3,514	
PETERBORO	3	HARTLEPL	2
HT: 2-0		Air: 3,385	
SHREWSBRY	1	READING	2
HT: 0-0		Air: 2,399	
STOKE	2	LORIENT	0
HT: 0-1		Air: 9,555	
TORQUAY	1	SWANSEA	0
HT: 0-0		Air: 1,908	
WEST BROM	0	BIRMINGHAM	1
HT: 0-1		Air: 26,168	
WIGAN	4	EXETER	1
HT: 1-1		Air: 1,761	

DIVISION 4

CARDIFF	2	DONCASTER	1
HT: 1-1		Air: 2,491	
CARLISLE	2	CREWE	1
HT: 0-0		Air: 1,905	
CHESTERFELD	2	HEREFORD	0
HT: 1-0		Air: 2,949	
GILLINGHAM	3	NORTHAMPTN	1
HT: 0-0		Air: 2,544	
LINCOLN	0	BURNLEY	3
HT: 0-1		Air: 3,236	
ROCHDALE	1	HALIFAX	0
HT: 1-0		Air: 2,323	
SCARBORO	0	BARNET	4
HT: 0-2		Air: 1,942	
SCUNTHORPE	1	MANSFIELD	4
HT: 0-1		Air: 3,160	
WALSALL	3	ALDERSHOT	1
HT: 1-0		Air: 3,025	

B & Q PREMIER

AIRDRIE	1	DUNDEE UTD	3
HT: 0-1		Air: 2,491	
MOTHERWELL	0	HEARTS	1
HT: 0-1		Air: 5,417	
RANGERS	1	FALKIRK	1
HT: 0-1		Air: 36,441	
ST JOHNSTONE	1	ABERDEEN	3
HT: 1-1		Air: 5,682	
ST MIRREN	0	CELTIC	5
HT: 0-1		Air: 10,442	

DIVISION 1

DUNDEE	0	MORTON	1
HT: 0-0		Air: 1,975	
FORFAR	0	HAMILTON	0
		Air: 394	
KILMARNOCK	2	CLYDEBANK	1
HT: 1-0		Air: 2,231	
MEADOWBANK	0	MONTROSE	0
		Air: 180	

PARTICK	3	AYR	0
HT: 2-0		Air: 2,600	
STIRLING	1	RAITH	3
HT: 0-2		Air: 650	

DIVISION 2

ALBION	1	STENHSMUR	1
HT: 1-1		Air: 202	
ARBROATH	2	QUEEN'S PK	2
HT: 0-1		Air: 252	
BERWICK	1	ELIFE	2
HT: 0-1		Air: 260	
BRECHIN	7	ONOFSTH	1
HT: 2-0		Air: 400	
CLYDE	2	ESTIRLING	1
HT: 0-1		Air: 480	
COWDENBTH	2	DUMBARTON	1
HT: 2-1		Air: 320	
STRANRAER	1	ALLOA	0
HT: 0-0		Air: 300	

ALL YOUR TABLES FROM ENGLAND

ENGLISH 1ST DIV

	P	W	D	L	F	Apts
Leeds	14	8	5	1	25	12 29
Manchester United	13	8	4	1	21	7 28
Manchester City	14	8	1	5	19	17 25
Arsenal	13	7	3	3	29	18 24
Sheff Wednesd	14	7	3	4	26	18 24
Aston Villa	14	6	3	5	20	15 21
Crystal Palace	13	6	3	4	22	24 21
Liverpool	14	6	2	6	16	13 20
Coventry	14	6	2	6	16	13 20
Chelsea	14	4	7	3	23	20 19
Norwich	14	4	7	3	16	17 19
Wimbledon	14	5	2	7	22	22 17
Tottenham	11	5	1	5	18	17 16
Nottingham Forest	13	5	1	7	24	24 16
Everton	14	4	4	6	20	21 16
Oldham	14	3	5	6	16	19 15
West Ham	14	3	6	5	14	20 15
Queen's Park Rangers	14	4	3	7	17	25 15
Notts County	14	4	3	7	17	25 15
Southampton	14	3	4	7	13	22 13
Luton	14	2	4	8	8	30 10
Sheff United	14	2	3	9	20	31 9

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	Apts
Middlesbrough	13	9	2	1	24	11 29
Cambridge	13	9	2	1	24	11 29
Charlton	14	8	3	3	21	14 27
Swindon	13	8	3	3	20	16 26
Ipswich	14	7	5	2	23	19 26
Derby	14	7	4	3	22	14 25
Leicester	13	7	4	3	18	18 22
Blackburn	13	7	3	4	18	13 21
Bristol City	14	6	5	3	18	21 20
Wolverhampton	13	6	4	4	18	17 19
Southend	13	6	4	4	15	14 19
Portsmouth	13	5	4	5	13	13 19
Grimsby	13	5	2	6	19	22 17
Port Vale	15	4	5	6	15	18 17
Tranmere	13	3	7	3	18	17 16
Sunderland	14	4	4	6	25	26 16
Watford	13	5	1	7	15	16 16
Millwall	13	4	3	6	21	21 15
Brighton	14	4	3	7	19	25 15
Newcastle	14	3	5	6	22	27 14
Barnsley	15	4	2	9	15	24 14
Bristol Rovers	13	2	4	7	14	21 10
Oxford	14	2	3	9	10	19 27 10
Plymouth	13	2	3	8	13	27 9

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	Apts
Birmingham	13	8	4	1	23	13 28
Brentford	13	8	0	4	25	16 27
West Bromwich	13	9	2	3	20	12 26
Stockport	13	7	2	4	25	18 23
Huddersfield	13	6	4	3	16	11 22
Stoke	13	6	3	4	17	13 21
Exeter	13	6	3	4	24	26 21
Bradford	13	5	5	3	23	19 20
Leyton Orient	13	5	4	4	18	17 19
Bolton	13	5	4	4	19	19 19
Hull	13	5	2	6	18	17 17
Preston	13	4	5	4	17	16 17
Shrewsbury	13	4	4	5	15	15 16
Bournemouth	13	4	7	5	11	11 16
Reading	13	4	3	6	22	25 15
Bury	13	4	3	6	22	25 15
Hartlepool	13	4	3	6	20	23 15
Peterborough	13	3	5	5	11	19 14
Chester	13	3	2	8	15	16 11
Wigan	13	2	5	6	18	22 11
Darlington	12	3	1	8	15	25 10
Swansea	12	2	4	6	7	17 10
Torquay	13	3	0	10	11	22 9

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	Apts
Mansfield	12	9	2	1	25	7 29
Barnet	13	9	2	2	33	17 29
Blackpool	12	7	3	3	20	9 24
Hereford	12	7	3	3	16	9 23
Walsall	12	7	2	4	21	16 23
Rochdale	12	6	5	1	14	9 23
Burnley	12	7	1	4	25	12 22
Rotherham	12	6	4	2	22	12 22
Chesterfield	13	6	2	5	13	13 20
Crewe	13	5	4	4	26	19 19
Scunthorpe	13	5	3	5	14	21 18
Cardiff	12	4	4	4	17	16 16
Gillingham	12	4	3	5	19	15 15
Wrexham	12	3	4	5	16	23 13
Northampton	12	2	6	4	14	16 12
Halifax	12	3	3	6	8	17 12
Scarborough	13	3	3	7	15	27 12
York	12	2	5	5	11	16 11
Lincoln	12	3	2	7	8	22 11
Carlisle	12	2	4	7	15	23 10
Maidstone	12	2	4	6	10	21 10
Aldershot	12	2	3	7	11	19 9
Doncaster	13	1	5	9	13	27 6

... AND HOW THEY STAND IN SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION



LUCKY

MO!

Johnston has the last laugh on hero Ian

RANGERS 1 FAILKIRK 1

MO JOHNSTON must have been astonished when his last-gasp equaliser trickled past Bairsns goalkeeping hero Ian Westwater — but it was

enough to get Rangers off the hook.

Fighting Falkirk were set for an astonishing Premier double over Rangers and Celtic on successive Saturdays until they were clobbered by Mo's luc-

ky strike seven minutes from time.

"It was heart-breaking for Ian after the tremendous saves he'd pulled off," said Bairsns boss Jim Jefferies.

"He was ready to react to a strong shot but when Johnston did hit it the ball squirmed out of

his grasp."

Falkirk stunned the champions with a goal after just 55 seconds when Peter Godfrey headed home from Simon Stainrod's corner.

Rangers hit back and no-one tried harder to get them level than David Robertson.



MO JOHNSTON: late equaliser saved Gers' bacon.

TOTTEN FURY AS GARY GOES

ST JOHNSTONE 1 ABERDEEN 3

SAINTS boss Alex Totten was an angry man on the weekend as Aberdeen snatched both points after the sending off of home skipper Gary McGinnis.

The teams were tied at 1-1 when McGinnis got his marching orders seven minutes from time — and the Dons took full advantage with late goals by Eoin Jess and Paul Mason. "The referee's decision turned the game and decided the outcome," fumed Totten.

Saints had fallen behind to a Peter Van de Ven header in 12 minutes as Aberdeen began the match in some style. But they fought back well and by half-time were deservedly back on level terms. Harry Curran grabbed the equaliser two minutes before the interval, scoring at the second attempt from a Steve Maskrey cross after his first effort had hit the post.

In the second half substitute Roddy Grant missed a glorious chance in 67 minutes when his diving header flashed past the post.

But the roof fell in on Saints with the red card incident in 83 minutes.

McGinnis had already been booked for a

foul on Jess when he tackled Dons' sub Willem Van Der Ark from behind.

Referee Ray Morrison decided he had to go. But Totten said afterwards that McGinnis would not be fined.

Threat

"It was significant that we lost two goals after that incident," said Totten.

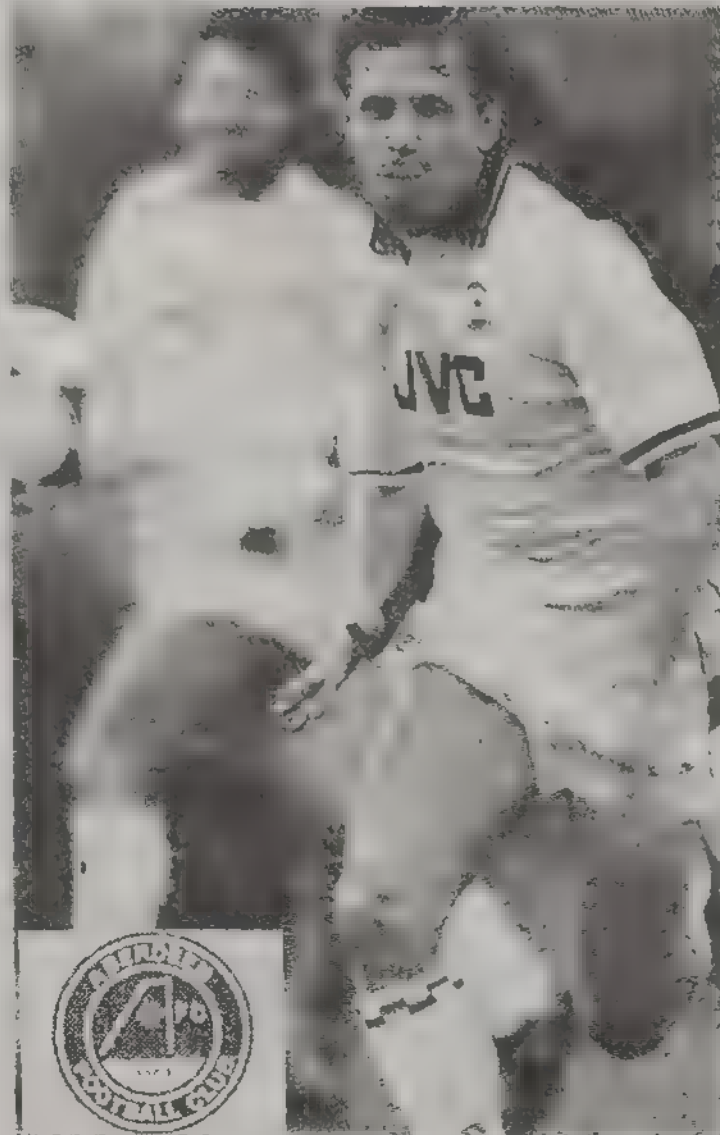
His Aberdeen counterpart Alex Smith believed that the goals would have arrived with or without the ordering off.

"I felt we were threatening to score even before the Saints boy was sent off," he said.

BEST PLAYER: Jess.

ST JOHNSTONE: Hamilton, Treanor, McVicar, McGinnis, Inglis, Davies, Maskrey, Turner, Wright, Redford, Curran.

ABERDEEN: Snelders, Van de Ven, Winnie, Jess, Irvine, McKimmie, Mason, Bett, Booth, Ten Caat, Gillhaus.



HANS GILLHAUS

But Falkirk's defence held out and afterwards Jefferies praise 35-year-old veteran Brian Whittaker specially drafted in for his first game of the season.

Hectic

"He calmed things down the way I wanted, and his experience worked for us.

"We've answered a lot of people who said Falkirk aren't good enough for the Premier League."

Whittaker came to the rescue twice in 10 hectic minutes when he headed chances from Ally McCoist and Mark Hateley out of the goalmouth.

But it was Westwater who saved the day repeatedly with two super

stops from McCoist and a diving one-handed save from Robertson which he touched round the post.

The second-half provided most of the drama with Rangers having a goal disallowed for offside with two minutes to go after the ball had spun off Tommy McQueen's head into his own goal.

Falkirk's Kevin McAllister squandered a great chance, but Rangers skipper Richard Gough blasted the ball wide for an equally glaring miss.

Trickled

It was Johnston who stepped in after a wild scramble in the Falkirk goalmouth with Hateley and Gary Ste-

vens having a go.

When it was Johnston's turn his low shot trickled through Westwater's hands.

Rangers boss Walter Smith summed-up Rangers' performance, saying: "It was disappointing. For the first hour we didn't do enough.

"But Falkirk deserve credit for coming here and trying to attack and not being particularly defensive.

BEST PLAYER: Westwater.

RANGERS: Goram, Stevens, Robertson, Gough, Spackman, Nisbet, Morrow, McCall, McCoist, Johnston, Mikhailichenko.

FALKIRK: Westwater, Oliver, McQueen, Whittaker, Godfrey, Duffy, McAllister, May, Baptie, Stainrod, Smith.



AIRDRIE 1
DUNDEE UTD 3

DUNDEE UNITED skilfully clinched their first win in four games with two late goals.

Then United boss

Jim McLean refused to comment on his side's impressive performance and silenced his officials and players.

But Airdrie boss Alex MacDonald said: "We showed plenty of

effort but gave away two easy goals.

"Their second goal was the turning point. We were unlucky however when Walter Kidd hit the crossbar.

With keepers John Martin and Guido Van de Kamp in sparkling form, it took a quality goal to open the scoring.

United's teenage striker Duncan Ferguson bounced on a loose ball at the edge of the box.

He held off a Kidd challenge and ghosted passed Jimmy Sandison to score from a narrow angle in 32 minutes.

Airdrie levelled via a Kenny Black penal-

ty in 50 minutes when the keeper pulled down Alan Lawrence — who was playing with a fractured arm.

A poor passback by John Clark led to the incident, but the giant defender fired home a 20-yard free kick on 72 minutes.

Sub Mixu Paatelainen made it 3-1 with a

thundering shot in a crowded box eight minutes from time.

BEST PLAYER: Ferguson.

AIRDRIE: Martin, Kidd, Stewart, Sandison, Conn, Kirkwood, Boyle, Balfour, Lawrence, Coyle, Black.

DUNDEE UTD: Van de Kamp, Clark, Malpas, Bowman, Van der Hoorn, Welsh, McNally, McKinnlay, Dally, Ferguson, McKinnon.



JIM GAGS HIS LADS



FIVE STAR

ST MIRREN 0 CELTIC 5

CELTIC recovered some Premier pride after their UEFA Cup Neuchatel nightmare — with their biggest away win in three years!

But their victory was watched by a crowd of only 10,442 — the lowest-ever Love Street turnout for a Premier League Celts visit.

While the Rugby World Cup contributed to the poor attendance, it's just as plain Celtic's ultra-loyal fans are fed up with their side's erratic form.

And though the stay-away Celts fans missed a goal feast, their side's handsome victory was no great achievement against a dreadful Saints side.

They were flat from start to finish and against a more clinical attack would have suffered an even heavier defeat.

And boss Davie Hay launched an amazing attack after hearing his side booed after by the few Saints fans left at time-up.

Sad Saints gunned down by Tommy

He fumed: "Without taking anything away from them, we handed Celtic the game on a plate.

"You could go through our goals and every one is down to a mistake.

Jokes

"The last two were just jokes. You wouldn't get away with losing goals like those in training."

Now the guilty Saints will go without wages after their pathetic performance.

The furious Love Street boss refused to hide behind the absence of suspended pair Roy Aitken and Chic Charnley, or injury victims Campbell Money, Norrie McWhirter,

Mark Reid and Thomas Stickroth.

The only cloud on a five-star performance by Celtic was the injury to winger Joe Miller, stretchered off three minutes before half-time after a tackle by Kevin McGowne and taken to hospital for x-rays on an ankle injury.

Crunch

There is no fracture but he limped out on crutches and is doubtful for Wednesday's match against St Johnstone and next Saturday's Old Firm clash.

Celts started their goal extravaganza when Paul McStay followed his double at Brockville last weekend by powering home from the edge of the box



PAUL McSTAY

after Les Fridge made a hash of a Brian O'Neill cross.

The stand-in keeper again looked at fault when he could only palm out a Darius Wdowczyk drive and Tommy Coyne beat Roddy Manley to slot home the loose ball.

Coyne added his se-

cond when he slid home a Wdowczyk cross which came through full-back McGowne's legs.

Celts then introduced Gerry Creaney for stomach bug sufferer Charlie Nicholas and the under-21 star was involved in the other two goals.

First Coyne headed back a Wdowczyk free-kick for Creaney to volley home, then Creaney headed back another Wdowczyk free for O'Neill to nod home.

Delighted Parkhead assistant boss Tommy Craig — in charge while boss Liam Brady went on a player hunt down south — said: "The players answered a lot of the questions asked of them.

"It was a terrific performance, and this game was one when the performance was as important as the result.

Sad

"I thought we were admirably led by Derek Whyte, who's had criticism from certain sections of our support."

Sad Saints were a sorry sight, only managing one shot at Pat Bonner — a Kenny McDowall drive which the Eire keeper palmed clear for their only corner of the game.

Saints' 17-year-old substitutes, Barry Lavety and Jamie Fullarton, made second-half appearances and Lavety caught the eye with some hard work up front.

BEST PLAYER: McStay.

ST MIRREN: Fridge, McGowne, Broddie, Martin, Baillie, McIntyre, Lambert, McDowall, Irvine, Torlason, Elliot.

CELTIC: Bonner, Morris, Wdowczyk, Grant, Whyte, McNally, Miller, McStay, Coyne, Nicholas, O'Neill.

Liam won't be raising his bid for 'unknown'

CELTIC boss Liam Brady at the weekend admitted that £400,000 transfer target Alan McLeary ISN'T his first choice to plug the Parkhead defensive gaps.

Millwall are demanding £600,000 for their 27-year-old 'unknown' but Brady — under pressure to buy new defenders — blasts: "I'll be talking to them this week" and sticking to our valuation. I know Celtic fans are asking: Who's Alan McLeary? They've never heard of him.

"Unfortunately, the players they have heard of aren't readily available."

On the weekend Celtic were linked with Hearts handyman Tosh McKinlay who has only five weeks to go of his contract.

Former Celtic Boys' Club player McKinlay has been starring at left-back but has been switched to central defence on occasions, notably against Rangers at the start of the season.

■ SPURS legend Dave

Mackay, out of work since leaving Birmingham City, has signed a year's contract as boss of Egyptian aces Zamalek.

■ GRETNA are the first Scottish team in more than 100 years to win through to the FA Cup proper.

A double strike by Chris Pickford and another from Les Armstrong gave them a 3-2 win over Stalybridge Celtic in their qualifying cup sixth round tie at Raydale Park.

JAGS BLAST BACK TO THE TOP

PARTICK THISTLE are on top of Division One again — and they intend to stay there.

Three goals blasted past AYR were enough to return the Jags to the top with their goal difference slightly superior to Dundee's.

Thistle boss John Lambie said: "I'm delighted that the team are back on the rails.

"We are glad to be back on top of the league, though there is still a long way to go."

A Colin McGlashan double and a Bobby Law goal dumped Ayr.

Morton proved that they are Dundee's bogey team, with their

second win over the Den's men this season.

Derek Lilley scored the only goal of the game.

Raith striker Gordon Dalziel is clearly on form these days. He followed up his midweek hat-trick against Morton with another three goals in the 3-1 win at Stirling.

One black spot for Raith came late on when Phil Burns was sent off for kicking Albion's Colin Mitchell.

Tommy Burns and Calum Campbell were on the mark for Kilmarnock in their 2-1 win over Clydebank, John Dickson netting for the visitors.

FERGIE OFF TO A FLYER

Motherwell 0
Hearts 1

THE Hearts hoodoo over Motherwell continued as Joe Jordan's men jumped back up to the top of Premier League table alongside Rangers.

It's now almost three years and 12 matches since the Lanarkshire side last defeated Hearts — and they never looked like ending their jinx on the weekend.

DEBUT

Jordan was happy with his side's performance: "I am delighted with the win but more importantly with the way we played.

"Following on from our defeat last week we get our discipline back and created a few chances," Tommy

Hearts new boy is a 'Well jinx'

McLean was clearly disappointed with his side's performance: "I am not happy with the way we played.

"The Hearts front three were too lively for us in the first half and we simply couldn't cope with it."

Hearts' winning goal came from new boy Ian Ferguson who had an eventful starting debut, also being booked.

Ferguson claimed the winner in the 20th minute when he powered a great header from a Tosh McKinlay cross past Billy Thomson.

The £100,000 buy from Raith Rovers looked the part throughout and proved to be a handful for the

Motherwell defence along with fellow strikers John Robertson and Scott Crabbe.

Hearts looked like swamping the home side in the first half with waves of attacks which the home defence seemed unable to cope with.

After Hearts took the lead they attempted to press home their advantage, prompted by some great play from Derek Ferguson in the midfield.

POST

The woodwork denied Gary Mackay a goal when his powerful shot from 20 yards crashed against the junction of the bar and the upright, bouncing clear.

The post again saved Motherwell, this time a John Robertson effort rattled back from the woodwork from 18 yards.

Motherwell staged something of a fight-back in the second half after a couple of refereeing decisions which went against them finally put some fire into their play.

But they could not get past a Hearts defence superbly marshalled by Dave McPherson and Craig Levein.

Nick Cusack came closest but he shot wide from a Davie Cooper cross.

MOTHERWELL: Griffin, Dalen, Simpson, Phillburn, McCart, Arnott, Kirk, Cusack, O'Donnell, Cooper. Subs: Ferguson, Varhoul.

HEARTS: Smith, McLaren, McKinlay, Laviein, Mackay, McPherson, Crabbe, D. Ferguson, I. Ferguson, Miller, Robertson. Subs: Penner, Wright.

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Gunners pip the battling Cherry

ARSENAL 2
NOTTS CO 0

COURAGEOUS
keeper Steve Cherry defied the English champions for more than an hour at Highbury.

■ But the odds stacked against County's long struggle for survival were too heavy to resist.

Alan Smith and Ian Wright scored two goals in five minutes, yet that doesn't even begin to tell the story of County's heroism.

■ The heart of their defence was staffed by their regular centre forward and Gary Lund, an 18-year-old striker making his First Division debut.

Three times Cherry hurled himself into astonishing saves from Wright, whom Johnson naturally found hard to handle.

■ The Gunners finally cracked their frenzied defence on 69 minutes when a searing burst from Anders Limpar set up Smith to knock in his 12th of the season.

Wright's frustration ended soon after Paul Merson helped him beat County's offside trap draw Cherry and score a simple second.

BEST PLAYER: Cherry.

ARSENAL: Seaman, Dixon, Winterburn, Davis, Pates, Adams, Rocastle, Wright, Smith, Merson, Campbell.

NOTTS COUNTY: Cherry, Palmer, Paris, M. Johnson, Yates, Draper, Thomas, Turner, Luma, Dryden, T. Johnson.

Silky Matt's glossy finish

TORQUAY 1
SWANSEA 0

DEFENDER Matthew Elliott gave Torquay victory in this clash of the Division Three minnows.

With hardly a chance falling to either side in the first 45 minutes, all the action came after the break.

And four minutes into the second half, Torquay struck gold.

Neil Sang looked to have delayed too long when he sent in a deep cross.

But Elliott, Torquay's leading scorer, rose to head home his sixth goal of the season from close range, giving Swansea keeper Roger Freestone no chance.



SHEFF WED 3
MAN UTD 2

ALEX Ferguson was hit by an object thrown from the crowd as United were knocked off the First Division summit.

United chief Ferguson was on the touchline reorganising his shaken contenders after Nigel Jemson's 69th minute equaliser.

He clutched at his head and looked accusingly at the crowd before walking back to the dug-out to receive attention from physio Jim McGregor.

But that was the least of Fergie's troubles as history repeated itself at Hillsborough.

Six years ago, it was Wednesday who wrecked Ron Atkinson's title charge.

And this time they ended United's unbeaten League run on 13.

Yet Ferguson's men looked like making a tremendous return after their European defeat by Atletico Madrid.

David Hirst had put Wednesday ahead early on but two gift goals by Brian McClair gave United command.

And, despite Wed-

SAD FERGIE FEELS SORE

Alex hit by missile as United fall

Wednesday's fierce second-half rally, they looked like holding out until the dramatic 62nd minute intervention of Jemson.

Seven minutes after coming off the bench for Nigel Worthington, he struck after Roland Nilsson's blast had wriggled through United's defence into his path.

And, nine minutes from time, the £800,000 hit man did it again.

Jemson had just been foiled by Peter Schmeichel's miracle save.

But when Phil King's corner flipped off the head of Neil Webb, Jemson was on hand to crash a header past the keeper.

United came with a formation made to

avoid defeat yet, by half-time, they were well in control.

For nearly 15 minutes there was not hint of the drama to come.

Then came three goals in eight amazing minutes — and there could have been more.

Hirst hit the opener, with McClair levelling when he intercepted a dreadful attempted backpass from Paul Warhurst.

McClair grabbed his second following a goalmouth scramble.

BEST PLAYER: Jemson.

SHEFF WEDS: Woods, Nilsson, King, Palmer, Warhurst, Anderson, Wilsson, Sheridan, Hirst, Williams, Worthington.

MAN UTD: Schmeichel, Parker, Irwin, Bruce, Webb, Pallister, Robson, Kanchelskis, McClair, Blackmore, Giggs.



United manager Alex Ferguson in a happier mood

SHEAR DELIGHT

BRIGHTON 0 SWINDON 2

HOT-SHOT Duncan Shearer grabbed his 13th and 14th goals of the season as Swindon switched on the promotion power.

Both goals were crafted delightfully, in the 18th and 50th minutes by midfield maestro

Micky Hazard and Shearer's finishes were faultless.

The 29-year-old striker's double, and some superb keeping by Nicky Hammond, boosted the best goal difference

in the Second Division. And that could be vital in a tight title chase.

It all meant Swindon boss Glenn Hoddle could wake up this morning to a very happy 34th birthday.

Swindon survived an early score when Brighton full-back John Crumplin headed against Hammond's bar in the third minute.

Then Hammond's reflexes had to be razor-sharp to beat away a vicious 20-yard volley from Robert Codner 14 minutes later.

But the Seagulls' defence was even more

vulnerable in an open, flowing start and Hazard took full advantage. His astute 18th-minute pass handed Shearer a simple opener.

Tom Jones should have found the target before the interval and Shearer squandered a clear chance in the fading seconds of the first half.

But five minutes after the break Shearer latched onto another crisp Hazard pass to seal victory.

Swindon's only black mark was a 53rd minute booking for midfielder Fitzroy Simpson for whipping away Crumplin's leg.

BEST PLAYER: Hazard.

BRIGHTON: Digweed, Crumplin, Chapman, Byrne, Bissett, Barham, Parrington, Gall, Codner, Robinson.

SWINDON: Hammond, Kerslake, Summerbee, Jones, Calderwood, Taylor, Hazard, Shearer, Simpson, MacLaren, White.

Duncan at the double

Debut Dean rocks Redknapp

BOURNEMOUTH 1 BRADFORD 3

BRADFORD's giant 17-year-old goal stopper Dean Richards turned goal scorer on his debut to bury Bournemouth.

Steve Torpey put Bradford in front in the 31st minute with a volley that went in off the post. Then Richards made it 2-0 in the 54th minute, lashing the ball home after Harry Redknapp's men failed to clear from a corner.

Bournemouth fought back and were rewarded when Jimmy Quinn lobbed in his 100th League goal. But Brian Tinnion netted in injury time with a tap in to kill Bournemouth's hopes of a draw.

CARDIFF CITY 2 DONCASTER ROVERS 1

CHRIS PIKE saved Cardiff from embarrassment against the Football League's basement club.

Pike was spot-on with two penalties, the second after he was fouled by Doncaster's Nicky Limbar in the penalty area. Limbar was sent off for the offence six minutes from time.

The incident livened an otherwise tame affair.

Pike scored from the penalty spot after two minutes but Cardiff then went off the boil and Doncaster midfielder Eddie Gormley replied with a thunderous 25-yarder in the 32nd minute.

IT'S AGONY!

PLYMOUTH 0 WATFORD 1

THE lowest crowd for seasons — 4,090 — saw bottom of the table Plymouth slump to yet another defeat. On this performance, even more will stay away.

Faced with only 10 men from the 26th minute when Watford's Nigel Gibbs was sent off, they seldom looked like matching the goal the visitors had scored five minutes earlier.

True, they twice hit the woodwork, but these occasions apart Watford's highly-rated keeper David James, was hardly caused a flutter.

It was a fair measure of this lifeless midfield struggle that it took 18

minutes for either side to produce a shot worthy of the name.

This came from Darren Bazely whose solo break ended with a close-range save from Rhys Wilmot.

The winger had better luck three minutes later, Jason Drysdale lofted a free kick into the area, Wilmot missed it and Luther Blissett's nodded cross left Bazely with an open goal.

Watford suffered an almost immediate setback when Gibbs received his matching orders. The red card came for what seemed an innocuous tussle with Ar-

gyle's Mark Fiore — but perhaps Gibbs added to his indiscretion in the chat with referee Arthur Smith.

By sheer weight of numbers Plymouth began to get a reasonable share of the game but Watford's defence, under the rock-steady Joe McLaughlin, rallied well.

BEST PLAYER: McLaughlin.

PLYMOUTH: Wilmot, Salman, Clement, Marker, Hopkins, Morgan, Barlow, Marshall, Evans, Fiore, Cross.

WATFORD: James, Gibbs, Drysdale, Dublin, McLaughlin, Putney, Bazely, Blissett, Holdsworth, Porter, Nicholas.

Shaky Argyle fail to beat ten men

ABSW

We're top of the League for all the B-I-G soccer



DAVID MEHEW

DANDY ANDY

SUNDERLAND 1 BRISTOL R 1

looked the better side.

PETER BEAGRIE rapped out a "buy me" message — but Sunderland still couldn't end a worrying form slump.

On-loan Beagrie has talks this week with his Everton boss Howard Kendall over a possible move to Weirside. He looks a good buy at around £400,000.

Roker fans chanted "Sign him on" as Beagrie brightened up a drab display.

Visitors Rovers had gone into the game on the back of five straight away defeats, but for much of the first half they

Skill

Andy Reece underlined the point with a 15th minute opener — only the second League goal scored on their travels this season.

Ian Alexander put in a free kick that was headed down by Devon White and Reece did the rest from 10 yards to stun the 14,746 crowd.

But defender Gary Bennett took up the challenge to spare Roker blushes with the equaliser.

Bennett, who had passed a fitness test half-an-hour before the game, put the home side back on course when he bundled in his first goal of

the season from close range.

Sunderland threw everything at Rovers in a furious 10-minute spell after the break but found goalkeeper Brian Parkin in inspired form.

BEST PLAYER: Beagrie.

SUNDERLAND: Norman, Kay, Rogan, Bennett, Ball, Atkinson, Bracewell, Brady, Armstrong, Byrne, Beagrie.

BRISTOL ROVERS: Parkin, Alexander, Twentymann, Yates, Cross, Skinner, Meheew, Reece, White, Browning, Pounder.

EXETER HIT BY TREBLE TROUBLE

WIGAN 4 EXETER 1

A THREE goal barrage in the second half sent Exeter crashing to their first defeat in 11 games.

After a barren half hour Wigan went ahead when Alan Johnson ran clear of the City defence, who were appealing for offside, and easily beat Exeter keeper Kevin Miller.

Exeter hit back before the interval when veteran Vince Hilaire headed home after fine work on the right from impressive fullback Scott Hiley.

But from then on it was all downhill for Alan Ball's men.

They had already lost top scorer Steve Moran with a head injury and skipper Tom Kelly was stretchered off.

Gary Powell got Wigan's second when he was first to react after his shot hit the post.

Dean Connelly grabbed the third on 73 minutes, and striker Phil Daley completed the rout with an 80th minute header from a corner.

CHESTERFIELD 2 HEREFORD 0

HEREFORD were hit by another attack of away day blues at Chesterfield.

Despite a 100 per cent home record, John Silett's side lose their way when they go on their travels.

Hereford were punished for failing to produce a telling finish... and Chesterfield showed how chances should be taken.

A seventh minute free kick was punched out by Tony Elliott but Jamie Hewitt left the keeper stranded with a 25-yard volley.

And Hereford were sunk in the 69th minute by a sole goal from on-loan striker Warren Hawke.

ROBBER BOB

Taylor's late ace stuns Newcastle

BRISTOL CITY 1 NEWCASTLE 1

BOB TAYLOR poached an 86th-minute equaliser to rob slick Newcastle.

The former Third Division top scorer showed a flash of his old opportunism to power home a header after Terry Connor had nodded back a Dave Smith cross.

Newcastle had dominated after taking a 13th-minute lead through Lee Clark, who hammered home a low drive after collecting David Roche's perfectly-timed through ball.

Yet the Geordies could easily have lost. Tommy Wright produced a superb save to deny substitute Wayne Allison, who also fired wide when clean through. And an equaliser looked certain when Allison met Smith's chip with an acrobatic volley.

But Northern Ireland international Wright showed breathtaking reactions to tip the ball against a post.

The first half was one-way traffic as City continually gave the ball away. Hunt saw a glancing header flash just wide as Newcastle failed to make the most of their possession.

It took disappointing City 34 minutes to test Wright, when Taylor's shot on the turn was pushed for a corner.

Connor shot straight at Wright from Nicky Morgan's lay-off on the stroke of half-time.

But the visitors continued to play the better football in the second half.

Newcastle had Roche and Liam O'Brien booked for innocuous

fouls in a game that was never dirty.

In fact, the open football was a credit to both managers.

BEST PLAYER: Roche.

BRISTOL CITY: Leaning, Llewellyn, Scott, May, Caesar, Osman, Shelton, Rennie, Taylor, Morgan, Connor.

NEWCASTLE: Wright, Nelson, Simpson, O'Brien, Scott, Maguire, Clark, Peaceck, Howey, Hunt, Roche.

RAY OF HOPE!



LIVERPOOL 1 COVENTRY 0

THE LOOK of relief on the faces of the Liverpool players at the end told its own story.

Liverpool, once the most feared team in England, had hung grimly for their first League win since September 1.

Ray Houghton's toe-poke gave them

the points, and captain Steve McMahon — hands on hips — savoured the cheers as unlucky Coventry trooped sadly off.

Jan Molby and Glenn Hysen were back for the first time this season to beef up an injury-ravaged Liverpool side.

But £300,000 Anfield new boy Rob Jones was as nervous as a kitten on his home debut. Jones almost gifted Coventry a goal in the opening minutes when he lost out to speedy winger Dave Smith and only saved the situation with a superb recovering tackle.

Liverpool were eager to put their European defeat against Auxerre behind them.

Ray Houghton forced Steve Ogrizovic to push one shot away and Jones, rapidly regaining confidence, produced a thrilling run and cross which tested



Ray Houghton (left), here against Mal Donaghy of Manchester United.

Ogrizovic.

Coventry centre-half Andy Pearce broke the siege with a looping header, from a Woods free kick, that went narrowly over.

But Liverpool's pressure paid off 10

minutes before the interval. Molby sent Ian Rush clear. The ball was swept out side to Mark Walters, whose cross was slid home by Houghton.

Coventry, spurred on by Robson, dominated the second

half. But the only goals threat came from Gallacher.

The busy striker had two headers off target and was then felled by Tanner which earned the Liverpool defender a booking.

BEST PLAYER: Robson.

LIVERPOOL: Grobbelaar, Jones, Burrows, Hysen, Molby, Tanner, Saunders, Houghton, Rush, Walters, McMahon.

COVENTRY: Ogrizovic, Borrows, McGrath, Robson, Pearce, Greenman, Woods, Gynn, Furlong, Gallacher, Smith.

ORDER OF THE BOOT

THE Boot Room helped Kenny Dalglish give himself the boot from Liverpool.

Soccer's most famous back-up team were part of the reason the Scot went into shock early retirement eight months ago.

That's the claim of the man Dalglish signed up to revitalise England's most successful club.

Horror

Kenny, haggard and worn beyond his 39 years, quit tearfully, blaming pressure.

He DIDN'T say that plenty of that had come from within — the Boot Room, coupled by Bill Shankly's disciples and coaches: Ronnie Moran, Roy Evans, Phil Thompson and John Bannison.

Injuries have hurt Liverpool. You only have to look at the League table and the UEFA Cup loss in Auxerre to know that.

But canny Scot Malcolm Cook believes horror of change threatens Liverpool's long-term prospects.

The staff of the Boot Room are Liverpool to the core, Moran is 57; Evans, 42; former England defender Thompson, 37; Bannison is in his sixties. Together, they represent more than 100 years of hide-bound Anfield tradition.

"Managing Liverpool," says Cook, "is the hardest job in football, as Graeme Souness will find."

"It's not just the obvious tremendous pressure of expectation after so much success. There are so many pressures at Anfield, they can suffocate you."

"A major one is that they don't like change — especially the Boot Room — from anything laid down by Bill Shankly."

"I have a lot of respect for the people of that room in many ways. But not over that. No matter how good the reason for change, they don't want to move one inch from the

course he laid down."

Cook knows only too well the tensions that broke Kenny. It took iron man Dalglish six years to buckle. Cook had had enough after just two years — and that was only as youth development officer.

Kenny brought in his fellow Scot to revamp a set-up that produced three first-teamers — Thompson, Sammy Lee and Gary Ablett — in 30 years.

Cook quit two years before Dalglish, fed up at being unable to push through what he considered vital reforms.

"Kenny was strong enough to make some changes," says Cook, now a sports management lecturer in West Yorkshire.

"Shankly always named his team on Thursday."

"Kenny did it an hour before kick-off to give the opposition no advantage. And he brought in a sweeper.

'You'll see a relaxed Kenny at Blackburn. He'll be a new person'

"Nothing really sensational, but it was like a revolution for Anfield."

You have to be hard to survive at Liverpool, where praise is believed to breed nothing but complacency, and Cook reveals the tortured initiation process that makes or breaks even big-name players.

"When a big star arrives at most clubs, his first reaction will be 'I've made it!' As a re-

back to defend at a corner!"

It's not just the stars who are tested. The staff also get the treatment.

"On my first day, I was told to report to the training ground at Melwood. I expected to find just the kids waiting. Instead, mixed up with them were first-teamers like Bruce Grobbelaar and Steve Nicol, standing waiting.

Bradford City, and Dalglish saw him as just the man to do it at Anfield.

But it didn't take Cook long to find out why Liverpool had stumbled at kids' level — and it left him shuddering.

"They were going through the same process as the seniors. I gather Kenny was there at 14, cried for a week and went home."

"I'm not surprised."



KENNY DALGLISH

Dalglish 'driven out by Shankly's ghost'

EXCLUSIVE

Malcolm Cook, the ex-Kop man who knows just what made Kenny run

sult, his performance level will almost certainly drop a percentage point or two.

"At Liverpool, that isn't allowed to happen. Every bit of conceit will be knocked out of him. From day one, he'll be hammered and ridiculed over almost everything — the way he walks, the way he talks."

"And that will go on till the message gets through — nothing but 100 per cent is enough."

"At the end of three months, he's thinking, To escape this I've got to play, not just as well as it took to get me here, but 10 per cent higher!"

"One thing you don't get at Anfield is praise. It was hammered home to me after Liverpool beat Forest 5-0, a performance described by old England star Tom Finney as the best he'd ever seen."

"Next day, the Boot Room was still not satisfied. One star player was bawled out for being a lazy so-and-so. His crime: not getting

"I looked around. There was no other coach in sight. It was down to me."

Degrading

"I got on with it. Star names didn't bother me."

"But it was 15 minutes before Ronnie Moran and the rest drifted over. They were testing me out."

But Cook blames the fearsome degrading process of players for Liverpool's failure to produce that youth level.

He is no shrinking violet. He was tough enough as a player to be signed for legendary hard man Jimmy Scoullar as his replacement at Bradford.

And he thought he had the qualifications to get it right at Liverpool when injury ended his playing career. He studied the management skills that would help him put his expertise over to the kids. Stuart McCall was one of the raw products he brought through at

The kids are hammered in the same way as the seniors — criticised at every turn.

"Not only that, they are treated like dogsbodies. One thing I tried to change was the business of writing training numbers on every red sock."

"It took them nearly all day. Linen tags would have taken half the time. It was a waste of effort and talent."

If nothing else, Cook left Liverpool with a major gem. "I was so excited when I got Steve McManaman, especially as he looked bound for Everton. One of the staff told me 'I don't know what you see in him!' I think he does now!"

Waste

"My only fear is that they could be asking too much of him in their injury crisis. And he could be burned out."

Cook's crunch came after he submitted an ambitious, reasoned blueprint designed to take Liverpool into the Nineties. He spent hours preparing and costing it.

It would have meant £20,000 a year extra to produce possible £1m

players, but chairman John Smith and chief executive Peter Robinson finally threw it out as too costly.

"That was it," says Cook. "I'd put everything into that job. But I was getting nowhere and I just handed in my notice."

And he believes quitting was the best thing his boss could have done last February.

"You wait, You'll see a new, relaxed Kenny at Blackburn. He'll be a different person away from Liverpool."

FINE FURY

FURIOUS St Mirren boss David Hay hit his side with a massive fine after seeing them thumped 5-0 by Celtic.

Grim-faced Hay raged: "Not one of those players will get any wages this week and they'll all be in for training on Sunday."

"It was the WORST performance from any team I've been in charge of in all my years in football."

It's the second time this season Hay has hit his struggling Saints in the pocket.

LEEDS ARE TOP OF THE CLASS

LEEDS are on top of the League for the first time in 17 years. But they had to rely on a Brian Kilcline own goal for the 1-0 win over Oldham that bounced them above Manchester United.

The last time Leeds were top was back in 1974 — and they went on to win the title that season.

★ But Manchester boss Alex Ferguson is rueing more than the end of his side's 12-game unbeaten League record. He was struck on the head by a missile from the crowd as United slumped 3-2 at Sheffield Wednesday.

★ Now Wednesday could face an FA inquiry if that's reported by Liverpool ref Kevin Breen.

★ Forest had £1.4m. Carl Tiler sent off for a professional foul on England Under-23 teammate Duncan Shearer in their 3-1 defeat by Southampton.

THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, November 2

★ World Soccer — 5.30pm

★ Main match: Holland v Portugal — top Euro-92 qualifying action from the very tight Group 6.

Sunday, November 3

★ Italian Soccer — 10.30am

★ One hour reviewing last weekend in the highly acclaimed Italian league. Features a main match and all the goals in the First Division.



European Football — 11.30am

★ Main match: Spanish double-header — Barcelona-Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid v Logrones.

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